

BELL'S
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Higher rate on bigger mortgages scrapped

Big societies lead way to cheaper loans

By Margaret Dibben
Money Editor

The Halifax building society last night announced that it was cutting the mortgage rate to 13 1/2 per cent for new borrowers from this morning, following the Abbey National lead in bringing cheaper home loans nearer for everyone.

The Halifax spokesman said the cut was 1 per cent from the present 14 per cent for those with loans below £30,000. The society was also abolishing additional rates previously charged for borrowers of larger amounts, he added.

A Halifax spokesman said that existing borrowers could expect a drop to 13 1/2 per cent before September 1. Existing borrowers with the Abbey National will have to wait until later in the year for a reduction, but meanwhile the savings rates are to be kept high.

The society has also abolished the practice of charging more for larger loans. The new rate for all repayment mortgages from today is 13 1/2 per cent, existing borrowers are paying 14 per cent for loans up to £15,000, 14 1/2 per cent to £25,000, and 14 3/4 per cent for over £25,000.

The decision to abolish differentials brings the societies

Playing reverse Monopoly with houses, page 23

into line with Nationwide and the Woolwich — which charge a flat 13 1/2 per cent.

Cheaper loans for all home buyers now look likely to take effect from September 1. Although the Building Societies Association council will not meet in August, agreement between societies to change rates is no longer necessary.

However, the cut in mortgage rate may be lower

than the 1 per cent previously discussed if all societies decide to abolish differentials for larger loans.

The Abbey National's decision to cut 0.75 per cent from the basic mortgage rate should, said the chief executive, Mr Peter Birch, make it easier for young people to become home owners. But there are signs that the present high interest rates are dampening mortgage demand. There are now no queues and societies, including the Halifax, have been advertising for new lending business, while some have begun to market loans other than for house buying or improving.

Anyone with an application for an Abbey National mortgage in the pipeline will benefit immediately from the new rate and existing borrowers will see a reduction as soon as their societies move, although they will have to wait until later in the year for an end to differentials.

Tax relief plan rejected

By John Ardill
Environment Correspondent

The Government has rejected the recommendation by the Duke of Edinburgh's inquiry into British housing, that mortgage interest relief be phased out in favour of a needs-related housing allowance for owner-occupiers and tenants.

Mrs Thatcher, whose opposition to the much-leaked idea has been well advertised, told the Commons yesterday: "So long as I am here, mortgage relief will continue."

The scheme is part of a radical package of fiscal, legislative and administrative proposals to widen and equalise choice and improve the country's housing. It calls for a new attitude which does not assume that everyone wants to be an owner-occupier, and which sees a key role for the private sector in rented accommodation.

The report, published yesterday, says the proposals are interlinked and indivisible. The Government appears to view the findings as politically unacceptable and economically unworkable. Others dismissed the package, welcoming or con-



Prince Philip — radical package on housing

demning the element according to taste.

The committee's decision not to take evidence from political parties has put it at odds with existing commitments and demands. It nonetheless hopes that detailed study of its findings, and public pressure, will bring a cross-party consensus for change which it optimistically suggests should begin within two or three years.

The Environment Secretary, Mr. Patrick Jenkin, said the Government would study the report carefully, but noted that its purpose was to "consider housing issues against a much longer perspective than the life of any one government." It contained measures "which do not accord with present day political opinion or even, nec-

essarily, with current economic circumstances," he said.

Labour's housing spokesman, Mr. Jeff Rooker, said the party's conference would consider the proposals for a new approach to housing functions of local authorities by giving them a key strategic role. The report indicated a crying need for new housing investment and Labour was fully committed to a large increase in public investment to ensure that enough houses were built, improved, and repaired.

The SDP spokesman, Mr. John Giddens, said that the report was "a sensible, sensible idea, but called the proposal of the abolition of mortgage relief 'wrong-headed'." Nearly 6 million people had planned their household budgets on the basis of that relief.

The Duke, launching the report, said: "I have long felt that the housing situation in this country was in need of a long, hard look, largely because the acquisition of well-located but often conflicting legislation has created a situation which no one intended." The inquiry's sole purpose was to put forward practical ways in which the situation might be gradually improved. The housing action group, Shelter, called the report a

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Tyra's father given life sentence

By Sarah Bosely

ANDREW NEIL, aged 20, the father of Tyra Henry, the baby who died as the result of severe head injuries, her body covered in human bites, was convicted of her murder and sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday.

Judge Lymbery, QC, sentencing Neil at the Old Bailey to youth custody which will become life imprisonment when he is 21, made no recommendation as to how long he should serve. But he called the abuse that Tyra suffered "an appalling case of cruelty" and said that no doubt the Home Secretary would take that into account.

Tyra, aged 21 months when she died last September, was in the care of Lambeth council from 11 days after her birth. Neil and the baby's mother, Claudette Henry, had a first child, Tyrone, who suffered severe non-accidental injuries which left him blind, brain-damaged and partially deaf.

After sentencing Neil, Judge Lymbery stressed: "I can find no fault whatever with the social services in the circumstances of this case."

While welcoming the judge's remarks, the vice-chairman and the former vice-chairman of Lambeth's social services committee were at pains yesterday to

admit to mistakes by staff members of its social services department.

Disciplinary action was being contemplated against three staff, one of whom was the key social worker on the case, who has since left to work for another authority. The other two are at management level.

Councillor Stephen Bubb, who was vice-chairman at the time of the case and is now chief whip on Lambeth council, tried to play down tensions between professional social workers and councillors which have come to a head over the Tyra Henry case. Strike action has been threatened by the social workers, a threat which Mr

Bubb doubted would be carried out.

Neil and Miss Henry, who met at school and lived with their families on the same Brixton council estate in south London, had their first child, Tyrone, in December 1981, when both were aged 17.

At the age of three and a half months Tyrone was taken to hospital, seriously injured, and Neil was charged with causing the injuries, which included fractures of the child's legs and skull.

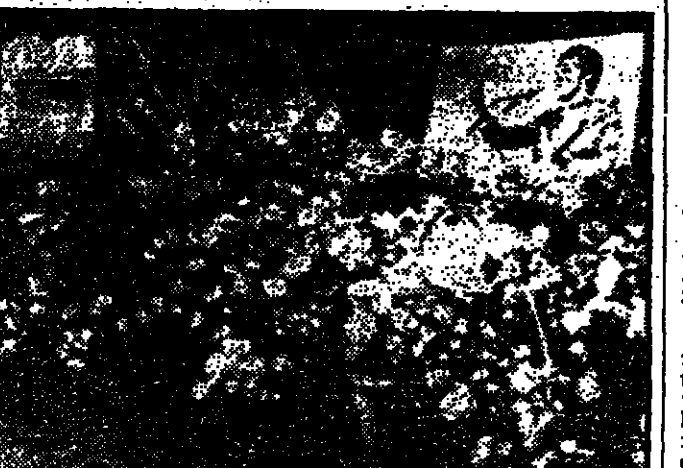
At Inner London crown court in May 1983 Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution, said: "The leg fractures were consistent with being twisted and wrenched,

the damage to the eyes and brain consistent with his being shaken violently and the fractured skull consistent with a direct blow caused by a blunt object."

A jury found Neil guilty of wilfully injuring the child and he was sentenced to borstal, where he was already serving a sentence for robbery, the latest in a string of offences which began when he was 11. On appeal, however, the conviction was quashed.

When Tyra was born in November 1982 Lambeth juvenile court agreed that she should be placed in the care of her mother, Claudette, then living with the mater-

Turn to back page, col. 5



The Soviet Pushkin: That's what many Russians called singer-actor Vladimir Vysotsky — pictured top with his actress wife Marina Vidy — and whose Moscow grave (above) was visited by thousands yesterday on the fifth anniversary of his death

Squeeze on Tory shares eased

By John Carvel
Political Correspondent

MR PATRICK Jenkin yesterday gave the Tory backbenchers an end-of-term treat by announcing the abolition of the system of spending targets and penalties which for the last five years have placed the low-spending Conservative MPs under a severe financial squeeze.

The Government still wants English councils to cut their spending by about £1 billion next year, but it is shifting the pressure away from its low-spending supporters and onto the high-spending urban areas, which are mostly controlled by Labour.

The highest spenders will be subjected to a rate-capping regime which is redoubled in intensity. They will

Day in Politics, page 6

largely be expected to freeze their budgets for a second year, implying a cut of at least 10 per cent in real terms.

Newcastle and Liverpool have been added to rate-capping lists, while Sheffield, Leicester, Portsmouth, and the London borough of Brent have been removed on grounds of good behaviour.

The Inner London Education Authority is being told to cut its budget by a further 11 per cent in cash terms; and about 20 joint boards set up to inherit the functions of the Greater London Council and metropolitan counties will be subjected to tight control. These measures are designed to put the lid on local authority spending worth £3.5 billion, affecting about 20 million people.

Other councils will be controlled through a tough new mechanism for distributing the rate support grant. As before, the central feature of the system will be the so-called grant-related expenditure assessments whereby Whitehall estimates how much each council needs to spend to provide a standard level of service.

Councils spending above this will lose their grant at an escalating rate which is much more severe than before. Low-spending councils will get a better grant deal if they keep their budgets down, but they will not be penalised for severely for modest growth.

The system will now depend on what the Government thinks councils ought to be spending and not on what they happen to have spent in the recent past.

Mr. Jenkin got a good reception from his backbenchers when he announced the settlement in the Commons. "The success of rate-capping in curbing the worst excesses of the highest spenders means that, for the generality of authorities, we can now do without targets and penalties next year," he said.

Mr. Francis Pym told him of the "Relief that the abandonment of targets will generate." But his thanks were tempered by the remark that it would have been better if Mr. Jenkin had seen the light before the

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US dismisses sanctions call

From Alex Brummer
in Washington, and
Robin Dilks
in New York

The White House last night brushed aside the growing international revulsion about the violence and clampdown in South Africa and pledged to continue its dialogue with Pretoria in an effort to bring about reforms in the country and solve the regional disputes.

President Reagan's press spokesman, Mr. Larry Speakes, told correspondents: "We remain prepared to stay ac-

Blacks shot down, emergency sparks new protests, French withdrawal of symbolic value, page 8; Third World Guardian, page 11; Letters, page 14; Why profit is blind to apartheid, page 19.

tively engaged in South Africa and in southern Africa to bring about the needed reforms in South Africa and a negotiated settlement to the Namibia problem." His comments came as the United Nations Security Council opened a debate in New York on France's call for economic sanctions against the Botha Government.

An early draft of the French resolution listed a series of voluntary sanctions along the

lines of those going through the US Congress. It called for an end to new investment in South Africa and a halt to nuclear cooperation, to export loan guarantees, to supplying computers that the South African police or army might use, and to the import of Krugerrands. The text also called for the immediate lifting of the state of emergency and the release of those detained.

France also faced the possibility that the African and non-aligned states, upstaged for once by the French, might want to use the heightened mood of consternation to press for mandatory economic sanctions.

The United States and Britain made it plain yesterday that while they find apartheid repugnant they were not prepared to follow the French and impose economic sanctions. The cautious attitude of the two largest Western investors in southern Africa effectively leaves both countries increasingly isolated from the larger body of international opinion, now openly disgusted with Pretoria's behaviour.

Diplomats in Washington said that South Africa, clearly stinging to feel the pressure of public opinion, was seeking to hold early talks with the Reagan Administration in an effort to solve recent differences. The White House dismissed talk of

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Don'ts for the detainees

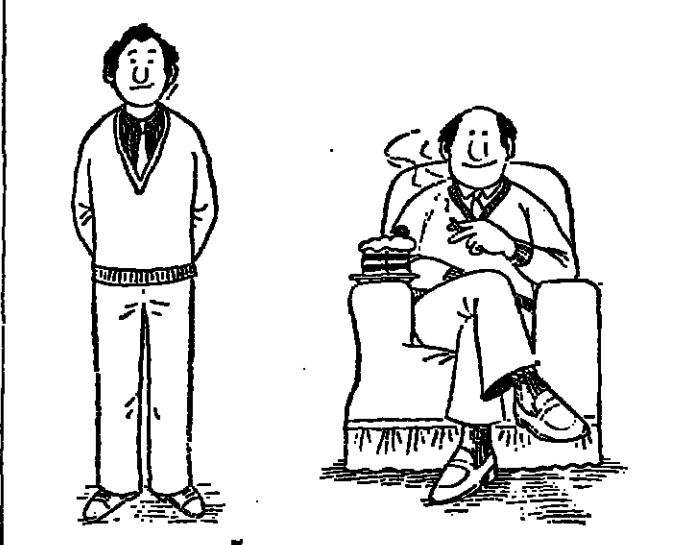
From Patrick Laurence
in Johannesburg

THE NEARLY 800 detainees held under South Africa's state of emergency have been forbidden to sing and whistle. Penalties for these offences are any other "unnecessary noise or trouble" — can be imposed by any prison officer and include solitary confinement, deprivation of one or more meals a day, and, if the detainee is a boy under the age of 14, six strokes.

Detainees are not entitled to any reading matter, except the

Bible or another holy book of religion. Detainees may not communicate with visitors except in one of the official languages, English or Afrikaans, through an approved interpreter if necessary.

Detainees may not receive radios, record players, tape recorders, musical instruments or television sets, food, cigarettes or tobacco. Detainees may not study or enrol for any studies, but are entitled to "exercise in the open air for at least one hour a day, weather permitting."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Company slump

THE FINANCIAL TIMES Index of 30 leading companies reached a new low for this year when it sank to 911 — a fall of 15 — as a drop in second quarter profits from ICI — whose shares slumped 30p to 659p — underlined fears over the economy. City Notebook, page 18; ICI, page 22; Trade figures, back page.

Radiation inquiry

THE Minister of Health yesterday announced the setting up of a committee to study the effects of man-made and natural radiation on the public. Page 2.

£2m paid back

A DRUG firm has repaid the National Health Service £2 million in excess profits. Page 2.

Bradford quiz

THE foreman of the jury at the inquest into the 56 victims of the Bradford City fire questioned the club's chairman yesterday. Page 4.



If you're intending to watch Match of the Day here next season, I'd like you to fill in this form, provide two passport size photographs...

Sikh rift

EXTREMIST Sikhs are denouncing the Akali Dal's accord with the Indian government on the Punjab crisis as a sell-out. Page 8. Leader comment, page 14.

Counter threat

THE Soviet Union yesterday said that it would meet the United States' Star Wars programme with a new generation of strategic nuclear missiles. Page 18.

Vindicated

FIVE YEARS after their open letter in the Guardian which led eventually to the formation of the Social Democratic Party, David Owen, William Rodgers, and Shirley Williams said that a fatally flawed Labour Party and cruel and divisive Tory policies amply justify their 1980 stance. Agenda, page 17.

Health warning

INCREASES in money for hospitals and community health services will not be sufficient to cover higher pay or the rising number of elderly people, the National Association for Health Authorities said yesterday. Page 4.

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The weather

WARM with sunny intervals. Details, back page.

Russians honour a modern Pushkin

From Martin Walker
in Moscow

"PEOPLE will come to my tomb forever," said Pushkin, Russia's greatest poet, and yesterday morning Moscow's leading intellectuals and thousands of other admirers thronged round the humble Vaganovskoye cemetery for the fifth anniversary of the death of a singer-actor that many Russians call the Second Pushkin.

Vladimir Vysotsky's grave was heaped with flowers or native vases, in plastic wastepaper baskets, and in jam jars. Rows of candles flickered before the headstone. His mother, leading actors, and writers walked slowly through the police cordons, followed by a wreath so huge that he might have been a member of the Central Committee.

Vysotsky was such an essentially Russian character that it is almost impossible to compare him with any Western figure. A combination of John Lennon and Bob Dylan, yet also one of the leading actors of his day, he gave some idea of his cultural importance.

When he died tragically young five years ago in the middle of the Moscow Olympics, his funeral attracted more crowds than the Games.

Yet he was never allowed to sing on Soviet television and was never granted the title Peoples' Artist of the Soviet Union. His enormous poetic range, from tender lyricism to biting satire of Soviet life, meant that almost every Russian responded to some of his work, even those officials who publicly withheld their approval.

Vysotsky's great role was Hamlet with Moscow's Taganka Theatre Company which he and the now exiled director, Yuri Lyubimov, presented as the fight of an honest, if hesitant, young man against evil rule and hypocrisy. The message for a modern Soviet audience was explicit.

At his grave yesterday, the mourning crowds were a cross-section of Russian society, old and young, sleekly prosperous and men in rough working clothes. There were war veterans, who knew by heart his love poem of the war against Hitler: "A little earth hut was enough for the two of us. But now I live here all alone, and sometimes I think it was me who did not come home from the battle."

"He was our soul," said one old lady, the tears in her eyes gleaming like the medals on her chest. "He was our voice."



John McEnroe — a month to decide

McEnroe asked to do the decent thing

By Aileen Ballantyne
John McEnroe, the former Wimbledon champion whose use of the blunt epithet has never endeared him to the English tennis set, was asked yesterday to "do the honourable thing" and resign from the exclusive Queen's Tennis club in London.

If the American decides against the chivalrous course of action men's say, there will be no choice but to expel him. It is one thing to swear at a tennis ball; it is going pretty

near the mark to swear at a Wimbledon umpire; it is a sign perhaps of good breeding to swear at the press.

But never, in England, even McEnroe should know, does one swear at a lady. Particularly if that lady is the wife of a former club chairman of Queen's.

McEnroe's fall from grace at the Queen's court was the work of a few moments. It happened during the Wimbledon championships when he was practising on a court which had apparently been

booked by other Queen's members. A few of the Queen's club lady members made so bold as to point out to McEnroe that he was, perhaps, in error.

In reply, he is said to have sworn at Mrs Sheila Boden, wife of a former club chairman, Mr Ivan Boden. McEnroe was said to have been "shaken rigid" by McEnroe's words.

Mr Jonathan Edwards, the club secretary, said that a committee meeting on Wednesday night decided to ask McEnroe to resign. Under club rules, he has one month in which to explain his conduct. Failure to do so would lead to his expulsion.

Ivan Boden, who was on the committee which made the decision, said his wife and the young American female player had booked the court McEnroe was playing on.

They allowed him to play for several minutes before pointing out politely that it was their court, he said. "Mr McEnroe was rude to them. One of the women asked

him 'Have you no manners?' He just erupted. His language was thoroughly obscene. To use his words, it was the pits."

Later Mrs Boden, speaking from her home in Richmond-on-Thames, said: "I am not prepared to repeat what he said. I am surprised you ask me to. It was something you would not hear in the gutter. It was as offensive as it could be. Someone has to put McEnroe in his place."

McEnroe, who lost his singles title at Wimbledon, was not available for comment.

Agreement pushes out traditional print unions

Electricians sign no-strike deal on Shah's daily

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Correspondent

The electricians' union executive yesterday endorsed a single union, no-strike agreement covering Mr. Eddie Shah's proposed new daily paper. The deal was endorsed despite a request from the TUC general secretary, Mr. Norman Willis, asking the electricians to delay a decision to allow time for further consultation with other print unions.

The deal gives sole recognition and bargaining rights to the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, effectively excluding the other print production unions, Soat, the National Graphical Association, and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

The deal will worsen the electricians' standing with the HARRY CONROY, financial correspondent of the Scottish Daily Record, was yesterday elected general secretary of the 30,000-strong National Union of Journalists with 3,609 votes, 519 votes more than Mr. Steve Turner, a Mirror journalist.

The union's deputy general secretary, Mr. Jake Ecclestone, came third with 2,484 votes. At one time he was regarded as the favourite but may have lost leftwing backing because of his recent hostility to the National Graphical Association over the introduction of new technology.

general council of the TUC at a time when the union is under the threat of expulsion for agreeing to take government cash for union ballots.

Mr. Tony Dubbins, the NGA general secretary, reacted angrily last night, saying: "This decision can only be seen as another clear snub to the unions in the TUC. The action they have taken is in clear contravention and contradiction of the TUC's principles and procedures."

Mr. Dubbins added that his union is calling for an urgent meeting of the TUC Printing Industries Committee to determine what collective action

might be taken to protect their interests. One of the major principles of the TUC Bridlington procedure, covering inter-union disputes over representation, is that a union first consults other unions before signing any deal which may affect their bargaining rights.

The agreement promises to revolutionise existing First Past the Post industrial relations. In a joint statement yesterday the EETPU and Mr. Shah's News (UK) signalled the electricians' wider ambitions in the print industry by stating: "Both parties intend the agreement to be a model for good industrial relations in the electronic printing era." The EETPU believes that changes in technology, and in particular the spread of computerised printing, means that the electricians' union can justifiably spread its sphere of influence.

The deal endorsed yesterday covers nine broad heads of agreement and follows closely the pattern of previous no-strike agreements signed elsewhere in industry by the EETPU.

Full flexibility and the use of the latest printing processes will be integral to the production of Mr. Shah's paper, which is to be printed at five printing centres around the country. Mr. Shah intends to employ 360 workers eligible for EETPU membership, including drivers and machine workers.

The heads of agreement are to be fleshed out by December 1985 through a joint working party consisting of Mr. Tom Mice, the EETPU's national officer for the printing industry, and two News (UK) managers, Miss Helen Graham and Mr. Roy Dickinson.

Mr. Shah has been reviled by the print union since his closed shop dispute with the NGA in Warrington in 1983. It may be difficult for the print unions to invoke the TUC's Bridlington procedure since Mr. Shah's paper involves a new company in a green field site with no existing employees.

Earlier this year the TUC endorsed the electricians' single union deal at Hitachi after a complaint by other unions. The electricians' agreement had excluded their existing representation rights. Mr. Shah has made it clear that although he is giving exclusive representation rights in the production process to the EETPU, he will be allowing the National Union of Journalists to seek representation rights in the editorial area.

Mr. Shah received this week a letter from the general secretary of Soat, Miss Brenda Deane, seeking a meeting after a leak of the proposed single union deal, but Mr. Shah said yesterday that the letter had "arrived after the horse had bolted."

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British Gas told, 'spend more on safety'

By Gareth Parry

British Gas should re-examine its priorities and increase spending on an urgent programme replacing old mains pipes in the wake of the Putney flats explosion which killed eight people, the Health and Safety Executive reported yesterday.

The very unusual combination of factors involved in the blast could not have been foreseen, said the report, and the public should not be alarmed. But it added that it could not rule out the possibility of such an explosion happening again.

The type of gas main at the Putney flats—a 32-year-old 6-inch cast iron pipe—was not included in the British Gas Corporation's priority programme of replacement after a government report's recommendations in 1977 which had been prompted by a series of gas explosions in different cities.

That programme was completed last year, said the Health and Safety report, and it recommended that the British Gas Corporation should reverse the decline in its overall level of spending on replacing cast iron pipes.

Accepting the report, Dr John Cullen, chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, said: "We therefore expect BGC to review publicly their priorities on mains replacement and to commit themselves to an adequate level of expenditure which will need to be made binding on their successors."

The Health and Safety Executive's report says that the blast was probably caused by pressure from heavy vehicles, such as refuse lorries, using a service road and ground subsidence, leading to the fracture of the cast iron gas main.

The pipe at the privately-owned Newham House, Manor Fields Estate, Putney, broke at the point where it passed over a drain.

The gas would normally have dispersed safely, but the effect of severe cold weather, ground conditions and the structure of the 1930s building combined to provide a route for the escaping gas to enter and collect in the flats.

It is not known what ignited the gas, but at 7.15 am many people were preparing breakfast, providing several potential sources of ignition.



THE Pakistan Welfare Society, which is campaigning against attacks on Asians in east London, complained yesterday that the police were doing little to catch the criminals.

Mrs Arshad Aslam, pictured above with her daughter Samina, says she was the victim of an arson attack.

The society's president Dr Zafar Malik, (right) has collated a dossier of 22 arson attacks.

Commander John Allaine, the Metropolitan Police Community Relations officer, said: "There are a number of people awaiting trial."

There is suspicion of organised gangs like the National Radiological Protection Board and the International Committee for Radiological Protection because it is believed that they have a vested interest in the industry.

Since concern began to rise about cancer clusters near nuclear installations a number of protest groups have been formed. Much of the information they have collected has no scientific base but has led to increasing fears among the public that being near a nuclear installation carries with it an increased risk of cancer.

The new committee will be expected to consider such information as there is. One of the points that Sir Douglas Black made was that there was practically no research in the area.

He made a number of suggestions for research but most of them have not been taken up because no funds have been made available.

In Cumbria, a couple have begun legal proceedings against BNFL over plutonium dust found in their home near Sellafield.

Lack of welfare figures criticised

By Seumas Milne

The Government's decision not to publish figures to show how its proposals for an overhaul of the welfare system would affect claimants was criticised as "unwise and unhelpful" by the all-party House of Commons Social Services Select Committee said yesterday.

In a unanimous report on the Government's green paper, published last month, the MPs declared that in the absence of such figures "it was practically impossible to judge the plans. All agreed with the committee's chairman, Mrs. Renee Short, who said she was certain that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, Mr. Norman Fowler, had produced figures for the Cabinet.

Using its own figures and a modest assumption of £80 million savings a year, the committee said that Mr. Fowler's proposed changes to the benefit system could result in 94 million losers.

On the Government's proposal to abolish Serps, the earnings-related pension scheme, the select committee said that any delay in its implementation until there has been time for full consultation.

At present, the Government intends to publish a white paper on the reform of social security in the autumn, to be followed by legislation in the next session of Parliament.

The select committee's report says that the review of the social security system has not been used as a means to reduce costs, yet goes on to quote Mr. Fowler's suggestion that his housing benefit proposals would lead to a reduction of about £500 million.

But the report also comes out with some well-criticised recommendations of the green paper. The committee:

● Expresses particular concern about the "value" to be put on the green paper's proposal to concentrate more help on poorer families with children. It recommends that claimants under 25 with children should receive the full adult rate.

● Calls on the Government to ensure that the proposals for the Social Fund, intended to cover claimants' exceptional difficulties, are more fully thought out before implementation, and that the fund is administered flexibly.

● Welcomes the Government's intention to replace family credits, but recommends that a high priority be given to introducing an integrated system of tax and child credits.

Announcing the extra funding in London, Mr. Walker said he wanted to assure the mining communities that there would be no lack of financial, practical or political encouragement to the success of the enterprise agency.

The agency has already created around 1,000 new jobs in the mining areas since its establishment in August last year.

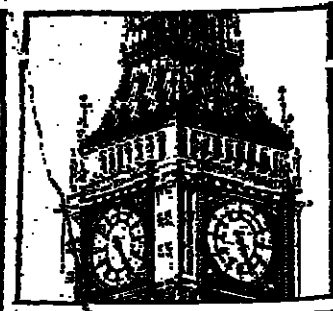
But when asked why the project had not been set up before the launch of the current pit closure programme, the NCB chairman, Mr. Ian MacGregor, said the shut-down of pits had begun in 1946 and Mr. Walker snapped: "It's because we have never had such a good chairman or Secretary of State before."

An additional £10 million of public money was yesterday pledged to the National Coal Board's job creation agency, NCB (Enterprise).

The extra £10 million, approved yesterday by the Energy Secretary, Mr. Peter Walker, will double the funds in the enterprise agency, though it can only hope to make a small impact on the job losses of up to 40,000 likely to be suffered in the mining communities in the coming years.

The additional funding for the agency comes on the eve of Monday's annual report from the Coal Board, which is likely to show losses of around £2 billion because of the year-long miners' stoppage.

But when asked why the project had not been set up before the launch of the current pit closure programme, the NCB chairman, Mr. Ian MacGregor, said the shut-down of pits had begun in 1946 and Mr. Walker snapped: "It's because we have never had such a good chairman or Secretary of State before."



David McKie

Waive the cash and take a rest

SIR PHILIP GOODHART (C. Beckenham) has been in the Commons since 1957. He was the most senior of the backbench Tories who voted against their Government on the issue of Lord Hailsham's pay in the early hours of Wednesday.

Later, in a more reflective early evening debate, Sir Philip recalled the advice which Leo Amery gave Chamberlain and his ministers in the Norway debate of 1940, when, pointing to the government's predicament, he said the words of Cromwell: "You have sat here too long for any good you have been doing... in the name of God, go."

My prosaic message to ministers, Sir Philip said, "is this: In the name of common sense, go and have a good holiday, go and paddle on the beach, go and read the excellent thriller by our colleague, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland" (Douglas Hurd).

What the whole top pay episode had shown, Sir Philip concluded, was that the Government needed a bit of a rest.

Some of them, of course, are destined for a rather longer rest than they would wish. Peter Ross, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who took the first blast of the top pay campaign, is the popular Westminster tip to join Mrs. Thatcher's distinguished disarray pile.

But the Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, is feeling vulnerable, too. Making yet another statement on the rate support grant in the House yesterday, he assured MPs that his latest plans were still only provisional, and would not reach final form till December.

"You will certainly have plenty of opportunities," he told them, "to savage whoever is standing at the despatch box then."

Was this a leak of a known intention? Probably not. More likely just a shrewd down Mr. Jenkin's spine.

The Prime Minister is beginning her own period of rest by flying off to America for the founding jamboree of an organisation of rightwing political leaders—Conservative Internationalists.

As Labour's Dave Nellist dubbed it yesterday, Roy Hattersley gave her a few thoughts on recent events in South Africa to take away with her.

He wanted sanctions. She, quoting at length from Hattersley, thought they would not work and could be counterproductive. You are utterly incapable, he told her, of understanding the importance of giving a moral lead.

The Tories love him when he's like this. John Biffen, on Wednesday, had quoted Harold Macmillan's division of politicians into two main classes—the bootlickers and the bishops. Roy Hattersley, he said, was the happy case of looking like both, on alternate days. "He's a bishop today," the Tories told each other as he poured his moral outrage all over Mr. T.

President Reagan's voice, said a story in yesterday's Daily Telegraph, "is a little hoarse." If public speakers are now to be assessed, like ancient cars, in terms of horsepower, Geoffrey Dickson (C. Littleborough, Saddleworth) is a piston of rampaging stallions at the very least.

The target of his outrage yesterday was the Duke of Edinburgh, who had given his name and authority to a report recommending that tax relief on mortgages should go.

Owning your own house, Mr. Biffen informed the Commons during Treasury questions was an essential part of standing on your own feet. And later he begged the Prime Minister to take this opportunity to confirm that her Government had no intention of tampering with the sacred subsidy.

Mrs. Thatcher said she was happy to repeat what she had said before. "So long as I am here," she said, "mortgage relief on tax will continue." Tax relief on mortgages, reliable sources said, is not so expected to continue.

She will not take Sir Philip's advice, of course, though she should. Perhaps she will go to the sea. Denis and the twins will be able to build sandcastles if they wish. But she will be building cabinets.

Government starts medical committee to investigate effects of radiation

By Paul Brown

A new government medical committee is being set up to study the effect of man-made and natural radiation on the public. It was announced yesterday by the Minister of Health, Mr. Kenneth Clarke.

The announcement, delayed because of the prosecution of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd for an unauthorised radioactive discharge, is in line with the recommendations of the Black Committee into the incidence of leukaemia in Cumbria near the Sellafield nuclear works.

Among the research that Black recommended was the testing of placenta in the region for plutonium to see if there was any connection between that and the incidence of child cancers.

The Government has not yet named the members of the committee and environmental groups will be watching closely to see whether it will be packed by people from within the nuclear industry or with outsiders.

There is suspicion of organised gangs like the National Radiological Protection Board and the International Committee for Radiological Protection because it is believed that they have a vested interest in the industry.

Since concern began to rise about cancer clusters near nuclear installations a number of protest groups have been formed. Much of the information they have collected has no scientific base but has led to increasing fears among the public that being near a nuclear installation carries with it an increased risk of cancer.

The new committee will be expected to consider such information as there is. One of the points that Sir Douglas Black made was that there was practically no research in the area.

He made a number of suggestions for research but most of them have not been taken up because no funds have been made available.

In Cumbria, a couple have begun legal proceedings against BNFL over plutonium dust found in their home near Sellafield.

Channel 4 pop shows get IBA rebuke

By Peter Fiddick

THE Independent Broadcasting Authority criticises two pop music programmes on Channel 4 in its annual report, which was presented to Parliament yesterday.

One programme, The Tube, is accused of bad taste while a show starring the American singer, Millie Jackson, had screened an "indecent" item, it says.

The report says: "It is never easy to find the correct scheduling for programmes aimed primarily at older children and young adults."

The Tube was perhaps the best pop music show on television, deriving some of its vitality from going out live, which could lead to the occasional mishap.

However, the Tube is shown in family viewing time and more than once featured material unsuitable for early evening. It is fair to say that Channel 4 and Tyne-Tees Television, which produces the show, were disturbed by these incidents.

Action taken to restrain some of the performers and some members of the production team.

The report says of the Millie Jackson show: "Even though it was shown late at night, one item in a performance by the American entertainer, Millie Jackson, was indecent," referring to a song with a four-letter lyric.

Andrea Woorof, director of programmes for Tyne-Tees, said yesterday: "As the IBA have indicated in their annual report, we have had a very close dialogue with them and Channel 4 about the problems of providing a lively and live 11 hours for the young audience at this time in the evening."

We keep a very close eye on plans for the programme and when there have been support and understanding of the authority.

Splitting Image, the programme built around black figures, is applauded as "innovative," and given the IBA's support. "Except on the one occasion when a producer relatively new to TV casting showed an image as a brief duration. Immediately any repetition of such subliminal material."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sewerage shooting

A 43-year-old man arrested after the shotgun killing of three sewerage workers at Bothwell in Lanarkshire on Wednesday is expected to appear in court in Glasgow today, writes Jean Stead.

A report on the case is being sent by the police to the procurator fiscal.

A Datsun car with the registration number SHS 895W, belonging to one of the men killed, was traced after the shooting, was traced by the police in Ayrshire. The public had been warned not to approach the car or its driver.

Man held after bomb found

ARMED police yesterday arrested a man at Epton, near Foulton, West Yorkshire, in connection with the discovery of a bomb outside the home of a retired miner at Thurnscoe, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, on Wednesday night.

Two sticks of explosives were found wired up to a 12-volt battery and a timing device beneath a rear window of the house. The area was evacuated and an army bomb disposal team carried out a controlled explosion.

Police interview man over attack

DETECTIVES hunting the man who stabbed and sexually assaulted two 13-year-old girls on Tuesday were yesterday interviewing a middle-aged man.

Detectives from two forces visited the man's Cambridge-shire home at dawn yesterday. He was taken to Cambridge police headquarters for questioning. The girls were in a serious but stable condition at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds.

Chairman defended over Opren

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

Professor Sir Abraham Goldberg, chairman of the Committee of Safety on Chemicals (CSCM), was involved in research financed by Eli Lilly, on the withdrawn arthritis drug Opren, the health minister, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, confirmed yesterday.

But the research ended and Opren was approved by the CSCM before Sir Abraham joined the committee, Mr. Clarke added, in a Commons answer.

He told the Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, Mr. Jack Ashley: "I have complete confidence in the integrity and judgement of Professor Sir Abraham Goldberg."

Nine hundred patients who claim that they were damaged by Opren are suing the health ministers who licensed the drug, the CSCM, which approved it, and the manufacturers, Eli Lilly and its UK subsidiary, Dist. They are claiming exemplary damages for alleged negligence and maladministration.

Mr. Clarke said Sir Abraham had never been employed by Lilly, but in 1978-80 staff in his university department carried out a study on benzoxapofen (Opren) financed by the company.

In January 1980 Sir Abraham's staff began planning further studies on benzoxapofen at the request of Lilly. "The study continued until 1982 but was never completed," said Mr. Clarke. "He gave no advice on that study and took no part in it."

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, said yesterday that judges should not have been given the large recent pay rises.

Criticising the pay levels in the legal system, Lord Denning said that, while judges and top lawyers were paid far too much, young solicitors and

OBITUARY

Writer on masonry

STEPHEN KNIGHT, author of The Brotherhood, a controversial book about freemasonry, died yesterday in Scotland. He was 33.

Mr. Knight, who wrote a number of other successful books, including Jack the Ripper—The Final Solution, was operated upon for a brain tumour last September. Surgeons told him then that he might only have a year to live.

Mr. Knight's book on freemasonry caused a sensation. It alleged that masons had pilfered many top jobs in the police, the judiciary, the Civil Service, the army and local government.

His most serious claim was that the ECB had infiltrated masonry and had paved the way for Sir Roger Hollis, alleged to have been a Soviet agent, to become head of MI5.

Education officers told to report YTS refusals

By Alan Travis

Chief education officers have been told that they have a statutory duty to tell social security officers about young people who refuse places on the Youth Training Scheme.

Mr. Peter Morrison, the employment minister, said last night that he was taking the firm line with local education authorities on the need to apply the benefit rules to youngsters who unreasonably refused YTS places so that their benefits temporarily cut.

The letter sent by the Department of Employment to all chief education officers in England told them that information is needed on YTS refusals to determine whether such youngsters should have their benefits temporarily reduced.

Mr. Morrison said it was a reasonable requirement which did not in any sense mean that the Youth Training Scheme was compulsory.

He argued that youngsters who had unreasonably refused jobs or approved training in the past were similarly liable to have their benefit cut. The decision to include the YTS as part of the defence procurement budget, to avoid a conflict of interest. The committee insists that Mr. Heseltine, the defence secretary, must tell the Commons what is arranged for Mr. Levene once his first year in his post is up.

New attack on Levene hiring

By Richard Norton Taylor

The Commons All-Party Defence Committee yesterday joined the widespread criticism of the way in which Mr. Peter Levene, the former defence contractor, was appointed to head the Government's arms purchasing agency.

Echoing a report issued on Wednesday by the Commons Public Accounts Committee, it said that the arrangement whereby Mr. Levene would not get involved in negotiations with his former company, United Scientific Holdings for at least a year, though he would still remain a director, was unconstitutional to Parliament for all his agency's expenditure was "not satisfactory."

It says that it is happy with assurances given by Mr. Levene, notably that he has severed all connections and sold all his shares in the defence companies, to avoid a conflict of interest.

The committee insists that Mr. Heseltine, the defence secretary, must tell the Commons what is arranged for Mr. Levene once his first year in his post is up.

But it welcomes Mr. Levene's aim to promote more competition in the defence industry. Mr. Levene told the committee that he had set himself a target to save 10 per cent of the defence procurement budget, which now totals £3 billion, over the next five years.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE		100c
Austria	26.00	100c
Belgium	26.00	100c
Denmark	9.00	100c
France	35.00	100c
Germany	35.00	100c
Greece	26.00	100c
Ireland	26.00	100c
Italy	26.00	100c
Japan	26.00	100c
Netherlands	26.00	100c
Portugal	26.00	100c
Spain	26.00	100c
Sweden	26.00	100c
Switzerland	26.00	100c
Turkey	26.00	100c
United Kingdom	26.00	100c
USA	26.00	100c

Police chiefs push for motorway safety

Call for confiscation of dangerous drivers' cars

By Paul Keel

A report commissioned by the Department of Transport yesterday said that the cars of some people convicted of serious driving offences should be confiscated.

The Oxford-based study group, headed by Dr Peter North, of Jesus College, recommends much tougher penalties for those found guilty of dangerous driving. Some offenders should be obliged to undergo "responsibility courses" and manslaughter charges should be laid against drivers who cause death by dangerous driving.

The Association of Chief Police Officers announced yesterday that it is to hold a national motorway safety campaign on all motorways in England and Wales next month in an attempt to reduce the annual toll of deaths and serious injuries.

During 1984 there were 4,073 accidents on motorways causing death or serious injury. The ACPO's campaign will take place between August 1-11—the peak period for motorway traffic and the time when most accidents happen.

The emphasis will be on education, with all 36 police forces in England and Wales responsible for policing motorways giving exhibitions at service areas and offering advice to individual motorists.

The ACPO said yesterday that the first priority when setting out on a motorway was for the driver to know the route. It was very dangerous for drivers to make last-second decisions about leaving a motorway.

Once on the motorway, a driver should leave at least a two-second gap between himself and the vehicle in front. A recent survey found that 25

per cent of drivers left less than that, giving themselves little chance of avoiding the vehicle in front in an emergency.

The campaign, featuring video on motorway safety, will also emphasise the importance of lane discipline, vehicle checks, and driver fitness.

THE Government may have to spend up to £25 million over the next five years putting right Midland motorway accidents, the transport minister, Mrs Lynda Chalker, disclosed yesterday. Her remarks followed the publication of an interim report by the Department of Transport and Independent engineers after an investigation into the state of the viaducts linking the M5 and the M6 around Birmingham which carry 100,000 vehicles

Among Dr North's proposals are the use of probation and community service orders for some driving offenders, and more re-testing.

Fines for traffic offences should be more closely related to the ability of the offender to pay and wider powers should be given to the courts to ban the use of vehicles considered dangerous, or even to confiscate them.

The questions raised by the accident "causing death by reckless driving" follow concern that guilty motorists escape with a driving ban and a fine because of difficulty in proving that their driving was reckless.

"The public sense of injustice generated by cases in this category can be substantial," says the report.

The study group who are inviting responses from the public about their suggestions, note that most traffic laws were drawn up in 1930, when there were just over 3 million vehicles on Britain's roads—compared with 20 million last year.

Mr Tony Lee, the RAC public affairs director, said of the report: "The main objective must be to decriminalise the less serious offences and to concentrate on tougher action against the more serious offenders who cause extreme dangers to other road-users."



Saudi Arabian prince Mashour Bin Saud Abdul Aziz, who was remanded on £150,000 bail until August 22 at Marylebone magistrates' court yesterday on a charge of conspiring to supply cocaine.

Court slip-up hits extradition hopes

By Paul Brown

The release of John Quinn by a London magistrate after a three-year battle for his extradition from Ireland has led to political embarrassment in Dublin and London.

With extradition of criminals who claim political motives being debated in Ireland, Quinn's release could not have come at a worse time.

Although Quinn, aged 38, was charged with obtaining £600 from a London bank in 1980 he was said to be a fundraiser for the Irish National Liberation Army, which admitted responsibility for the murder of the Conservative MP, Mr Airey Neave at the House of Commons.

A Special branch had high hopes of gaining valuable information from him but he was released after his lawyer, Mr Michael Fisher, argued that there had been an unjustifiable delay by the prosecution.

The Director of Public Prosecutions sent senior Treasury counsel to ask a High Court judge to order Quinn's re-arrest. This was done but special branch missed Quinn by 10 minutes at Heathrow and he has gone into hiding in Dublin.

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Rotten meat menace

From Paul Johnson

Police in Cookstown, Tyrone, yesterday intercepted several packages containing decaying meat which were intended for Protestant Protestants who last week received letters warning them not to have anything to do with Roman Catholics.

Sorters at the town's post office became suspicious about the parcels and called in police.

One of the intended recipients is a Church of Ireland clergyman who was sent a poison-pen letter last week threatening that "accidents can happen if he continued to socialise with Roman Catholics or members of the RUC."

Earlier this week two Catholic women lost their jobs at a restaurant in the town after their Protestant employer received a second threatening letter signed "Loyalists of Cookstown."

The outbreak of sectarianism follows clashes between Loyalists and police when marchers were stopped from parading through a Catholic estate on the outskirts of the small market town.

The home of two police women on a Protestant estate was attacked by stone-throwing and petrol-bombers, and it is known that some shopkeepers, thought to have been intimidated, are refusing to serve RUC members.

Pit illegal assembly charges left on file

By Michael Parkin

Five more men involved in disturbances at Rossington colliery, Doncaster, last year had charges of unlawful assembly left on the file at Sheffield Crown Court yesterday after switching their pleas to not guilty.

Judge Alan Simpson said that since they admitted other offences it seemed a waste of time to try the unlawful assembly charges.

Mr Stephen Duffield, prosecuting, said that in view of similar cases taken by the judge on Monday for other defendants from Rossington the prosecution would not proceed on that charge.

Eleven men, including the five on the unlawful assembly charge, admitted a series of other offences.

Mr Duffield said there had been widespread looting and damage at Rossington.

The five men accused of unlawful assembly were Peter Cooney, aged 28, unemployed; Anthony Rossiter, 18, unemployed; Kevin Comfort, 23, sacked by the colliery for misconduct; Colin Whittle, 27, also sacked for misconduct; and George Arundel, 24, also dismissed for misconduct. All live in Rossington.

Cooney was sent to prison for a total of six months for taking away an NCB van, setting fire to it and burglary. Rossiter, also charged with the arson, received six months.

Comfort was ordered to do community service for burglary and taking a van. Sentence on Arundel, charged with burglary and handling stolen goods, was deferred until Monday.

Other sentences passed were: community service for Harry Barwick, 36, for burglary; fines totalling £100 on David Smith, 25, for burglary and taking a van; £50 fine on Neil Griffiths, 23, for taking a van; £75 fine on Anthony Gaffney, 24, for dishonest handling; and £100 fine on Graham Williams, 30, for theft.

Sentence was deferred until Monday on Michael James, 28, on two charges of burglary. All six live in Rossington.

Judge Simpson said that many people involved in the Rossington colliery incidents had not been caught.

The sentences reflected the fact that the men had pleaded guilty and that they had been waiting a year to appear in court.

Drowning inquiry ordered



Adrian Wright: died in 'safe' swimming area

By Penny Cherton

A social worker employed by Southwark Council in London has been suspended pending an inquiry into how a six-year-old boy drowned in Hyde Park on Wednesday.

The council has also banned the use of relief social workers from the agency which supplied a second person to chaperone the children on their day's outing.

The council also said last night that it had cancelled all water trips until the investigation was complete and its report has been presented to an emergency meeting of the social services committee, probably next Friday.

Adrian Wright, aged six, from Walworth, was found floating face down in the Lido, the section of the Serpentine which is cordoned off for safe swimming during the summer months.

"What we want to find out is how this could have happened when there were about 400 people around, plus lifeguards, plus two social workers for a group of seven children," said a council spokesman.

Adrian had been taken to Hyde Park on an outing arranged by the council's Children Day Centre. He had been in the care of the social services and had recently been returned to his single-parent mother. The council said he had been taken to give his parents a break during the school holidays. His mother was on a trip to Margate, organised by the same centre.

Drug addict seeks her baby back

A mother whose 19-week-old daughter is said to have suffered drug withdrawal symptoms after birth because of her parents' addiction told a juvenile court at Reading yesterday that she wanted to give up drugs and have the baby back.

Berkshire County Council is seeking a full care order on the baby, citing ill-treatment before birth as one of the grounds. The baby suffered from heroin and methadone withdrawal symptoms, the court has heard, and an interim care order was made in May.

The 29-year-old mother told the court yesterday: "All I want to do is to get off drugs and to have my daughter with me. She admitted that she and her husband might not be in a position to resume the care of their daughter at present, but the Maudsley centre for drug addiction in London, had offered them a detoxification programme."

"I know that it won't be easy but I have no doubts that, with help, I will be able to conquer my addiction. I have not had the incentive to stop that I have now—a little baby daughter."

The court heard that the mother did not know she was pregnant until two months before the baby was born five weeks prematurely.

The mother claimed that she had never been addicted to heroin but was a regular user of methadone, and had continued to inject herself after she knew that she was pregnant.

A general practitioner, Dr Harjeet-Singh Bindra, told the court that the woman had gone to his surgery last August and asked to be referred to a fertility clinic.

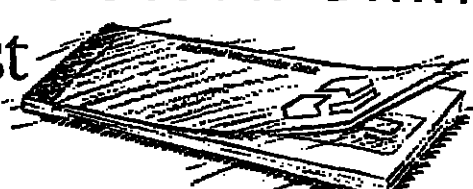
The mother said that a specialist at St Thomas's Hospital in London had confirmed that she was pregnant, but his decision was reversed.

Mr Timothy Hammick, the solicitor representing the parents, said that with the mother's agreement Dr Bindra had prescribed a low dosage of methadone as a substitute for her normal drug intake.

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£2m is repaid by drug company

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

A multinational drug firm has repaid the health service £2 million in excess profits after a Department of Health investigation into transfer prices, the Commons Public Accounts Committee reported yesterday. The refund is the first of the department's clampdown on multinationals which transfer profits out of the UK by artificially inflating prices of raw materials to their British subsidiaries.

The company, which is not named, has been obliged to repay £1 million a year over the past two years, the committee was told by Mr John Long, the Department of Health official in charge of drug company prices and profits.

The PAC has been pressing the Department of Health to act on transfer prices since 1978. The department has now hired a senior accountant from a private firm to help to investigate prices.

Sir Kenneth Stowe, the department's permanent secretary, was unable to assure the committee that transfer prices were "reasonable."

Close shave for prisoners

Police at Clapham, London, are to supply prisoners with shaving equipment to smarten themselves up before appearing in court, and the sponsors of the idea hope it will catch on at other police stations.

Ms Greta Brooks, who chairs the watchdog panel of lay visitors to Lambeth police station, said: "The appearance of an arrested person can affect the attitude of the magistrate."



The Archbishop of Canterbury with two bishops outside St Paul's Cathedral after they had been consecrated yesterday. They are the Venerable Wilfred Wood, aged 49, Archdeacon of Southwark, who becomes suffragan Bishop of Croydon, and the Reverend Canon Colin Buchanan, 50, principal of St John's College, Nottingham, who becomes Bishop of Aston.

Rising costs 'may force more health cuts'

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

More cuts in services to patients may be on the way, the National Association of Health Authorities said yesterday. The Government's cash increase for hospitals and community health services will not be enough to cope with pay rises or the rising numbers of elderly people, the association said in its annual economic review of the NHS.

Districts which lose under the Resource Allocation Working Party scheme for equalising resources, particularly those in inner London, will face severe problems, with de-

prived areas which are supposed to benefit finding it difficult to improve services. Lack of finance will jeopardise the Government's policy of moving mentally ill and handicapped patients out of the old long-stay hospitals.

The review says that the state of hospital buildings has worsened since the Cerebral Palsy report in 1983 estimated that £2 billion was needed to bring them up to a minimum acceptable standard.

The NAAHA analysis contradicts the claim by the Health Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, that the NHS is better off than ever.

The service needs an extra 1 per cent each year to keep pace with demographic pressures and an extra 0.5 per cent for technological improvements.

Since the Government came to power, the minimum target has only been met in 1981-2. This year's £521 million (5.7 per cent) cash increase for hospitals and community health services assumes a 4.5 per cent increase in pay and prices, and allows £109 million for demographic changes.

Inflation is running at 7 per cent, so the money health authorities can use to cope with demographic changes is likely to be cut to £60 million the

NAAHA calculates.

The Government's refusal to fund the doctors' and nurses' pay rise means that if the increases for other health workers exceed 3 per cent the demographic allowance will suffer yet again.

Clerical administrative and ancillary staff have already rejected rises of 4.4-7 per cent. So the money needed to treat elderly people this year is likely to be cut to less than £35 million.

NHS Economic Review 1985 price £6 (non-members) £4.50 (members) from NAAHA, Gorth House 47, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham.

Call to abolish tax relief on mortgages



John Ardill on the housing allowance and other proposals of the Duke's committee

A HOUSING allowance, based on need and financed by the abolition of existing housing and mortgage interest relief, is the main recommendation of the Inquiry into British Housing chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The committee, which claims that its proposals would not cause any increase in total public spending, also recommends a system of controlled rents related to the capital value of house and flats. It says that this would increase choice and stimulate private investment in rented accommodation. Additional measures are put forward to improve the condition of existing housing.

The Duke's committee stresses that its recommendations should be implemented as a whole rather than as a series of separate options. It suggests that the changes could begin to be introduced within two or three years and phased in over a decade. The report claims that in the long term it is possible to get rid of homelessness, overcrowding and squalid housing by new building, renovation, and better use of empty and under-used property. "Few individuals can fulfil their true potential and our society cannot become a harmonious whole while large numbers of people are homeless or living in totally unsatisfactory conditions," it says.

While most people are decently housed, many on low or limited incomes are facing increasing difficulties in finding a home. Fewer new houses are being built and more are in serious disrepair. Most households have no real choice of tenure: the poor are obliged to become tenants, the middle class, and the better off must buy.

The report says that mortgage interest relief benefits most those least in need, may drive up prices, and reaches only 55 per cent of owner-occupiers. If it is

phased out by progressive reduction of the sum on which relief could be claimed or the withdrawal of relief on anything above the basic tax band, with progressive withdrawal of the remainder, there should be little impact on the housing market and family incomes. Those on or below average earnings should be better off with the new allowance.

The allowance would be available to tenants and owners; would be related to household income, and would cover rent, mortgage and maintenance. It would vary regionally, but all households with income below a defined level would qualify for the maximum.

The report points out that current individual subsidies cost some £3 billion a year. Although the new allowance would cost much more, the abolition of mortgage interest relief would release more than £3.5 billion a year.

New rented accommodation is needed at the rate of 80,000 to 100,000 houses a year, compared with the current provision of under

50,000. The gap could be closed by private funding, as long as Treasury conventions do not dictate that all such investments must be counted as adding to the public sector borrowing requirement.

Rents on public and private housing would be calculated to give a return of about 4 per cent on capital value, to encourage investment, with a further element to cover maintenance and management.

Council rents would rise by some 14 per cent in real terms. Surpluses accruing to some local authorities would be redistributed to others by a levy.

The report says that owner-occupiers should be encouraged and helped to let surplus rooms. There should be no rent control, repossession should be simplified, and rents should be exempted from income tax. Additional rented housing should be funded by financial institutions through independent housing bonds or units, and managed by "approved" landlords including housing associations, co-operatives and property companies.

Owners should be primarily responsible for the maintenance, repair and improvement of private housing but government should provide a legal, financial and administrative framework of assistance. Grants should be channelled to those most in need, particularly the old and poor.

Local authorities should become the "co-ordinators and enablers" of housing activity, assessing need, planning strategies to meet it and enforcing standards. They should continue to be the "providers of last resort" but in partnership with other landlords.

Inquiry into British Housing. Available from: National Federation of Housing Associations, 175 Grosvenor Road, London WC1X 8UP. £4.95.

Fire gear 'ruled out by soccer hooligans'

By Malcolm Piters

Football hooliganism makes it impossible to leave fire-fighting gear in stands like the one at Bradford which burned down last May. The club's chairman, Mr Stafford Heginbotham, told the inquest into the deaths yesterday.

Asked by the coroner, Mr James Turnbull, whether fire-fighting gear would have been installed if re-roofing of the stand planned to begin after the blaze had been carried out, Mr Heginbotham said: "The subject, to my knowledge, had never been discussed."

Questioned by the jury's foreman about the lack of safety discussions, Mr Heginbotham said fire precautions had not been considered by the directors because they did not believe that the safety regulations for designated grounds applied to them.

Promotion to the Second Division made them aware that a great deal of repair was needed, and three days before the fire there had been discussion with council officials where improvements were estimated at £2 million.

Mr Heginbotham said that no one in their right mind during the present climate of hooliganism would leave fire extinguishers and hose about.

Mr Heginbotham said the club had replaced floodlights and had spent £25,000 on a new drainage system. During the re-roofing of the main stand they would have ripped out the remaining seats and done more re-concreting in the stand area.

He said he was deeply saddened by the death.

A supporter who did not give evidence to the Popplewell inquiry, Anthony Pearson, aged 18, from Bradford, told the inquest that he had seen an object thrown in the area of the fire only a minute before it began.

The object had been a couple of inches in length and cylindrical. "It landed on ground where the seats were and a lad said, 'Can you smell something burning?' Then I saw smoke."

The coroner questioned Ian Truman, a Daily Star reporter who was criticised during the Popplewell inquiry about a personal report he wrote for his newspaper.

He had reported seeing a smoke bomb thrown and was asked whether he had been reporting what he really believed he saw. Mr Truman said: "I had no reason to sensationalise this issue whatsoever. I only reported what I saw."

The inquest continues today.



Stafford Heginbotham - 'safety rules never discussed'

'I hit PC' Marsh's son tells court

THE son of the former Labour minister and British Rail chairman, Lord Marsh, said he realised that evening he might lead his being prosecuted, "but I would feel bad if I didn't."

After hearing Mr Marsh's evidence, the court ordered a retrial for Colin Charles Tall, 18, of Woolwich, London, on a charge of assaulting the policeman, causing actual bodily harm.

Tall's conviction and a nine-month youth custody sentence passed at Inner London Crown Court on May 13 was quashed. He had been on bail pending yesterday's appeal.

Mr Marsh, a Christian supporter, of Woolwich, said the disturbance took place at the club's ground when his team were playing Portsmouth last September.

Mr Marsh said he had gone to help a friend and was hit in the face. "Immediately after, I felt a hand on my shoulder. Without thinking I kicked him. When I turned round I saw it was a policeman." He pushed him away and pushed his way back through the crowd to the terraces.

Council ban on rugby club illegal

Leicester City Council acted unlawfully and abused its powers in banning supporters from the city's premier rugby club, the Tigers, because three players joined an England tour of South Africa, the House of Lords ruled in London yesterday.

Five law lords unanimously allowed an appeal by Leicester Rugby Union Football Club and granted an order quashing a year's ban imposed last August preventing the club using the council's Welford Road ground for its matches.

The club, founded in 1880, had carried out large-scale improvements at the ground, which it had been using for matches, other than first team, and training since the war.

The council was ordered to pay the club's costs and previous hearings in the Court of Appeal and High Court.

Giving judgment, Lord Templeman said that the council was not entitled to withdraw facilities because the club had done nothing wrong.

Lord Templeman said he personally shared the council's view that the 1994 tour of South Africa would endorse the racist policies of the South African government. But there were two views about the tour among opponents of apartheid.

The Leicester club, said Lord Templeman, did not sup-

port apartheid, had not been guilty of any infringement of the Race Relations Act, 1976, did not support the decision of its three members to join the tour, and had tried to discourage them from joining.

Nevertheless, the club had been punished by the council for failing to condemn the tour and to discourage its members from playing.

"The laws of this country are not like the laws of Nazi Germany," Lord Templeman said. "A private individual or organisation cannot be obliged to display a seal in pursuit of an object sought by a public authority and cannot be obliged to publish views dictated by a public authority."

By Rosemary Collins, Agriculture Correspondent

A ban on straw and stubble burning in the fields is simply not realistic at present, the Government believes.

Launching the Ministry of Agriculture's annual campaign to persuade farmers to burn straw responsibly, Lord Belstead, minister of state, ruled out a ban but reminded farmers that new bylaws introduced last summer could face fines of up to £2,000 for unsafe burning.

Six million tons of straw are burnt in Britain each year, and the minister said that leave this quantity lying

around in the fields would create an unacceptable risk of accidental fire. The ministry is spending £2 million a year trying to find alternative burning uses for straw.

Pressure for a ban on burning has grown this year, in spite of a drop in the number of complaints from the public after last year's ban.

Last week 100 MPs of all parties signed a motion calling for a ban from 1990, a strategy devised by the National Society for Clean Air.

This year's Ministry of Agriculture campaign aimed to get farmers to run under the slogan: "Don't get your straw burnt."

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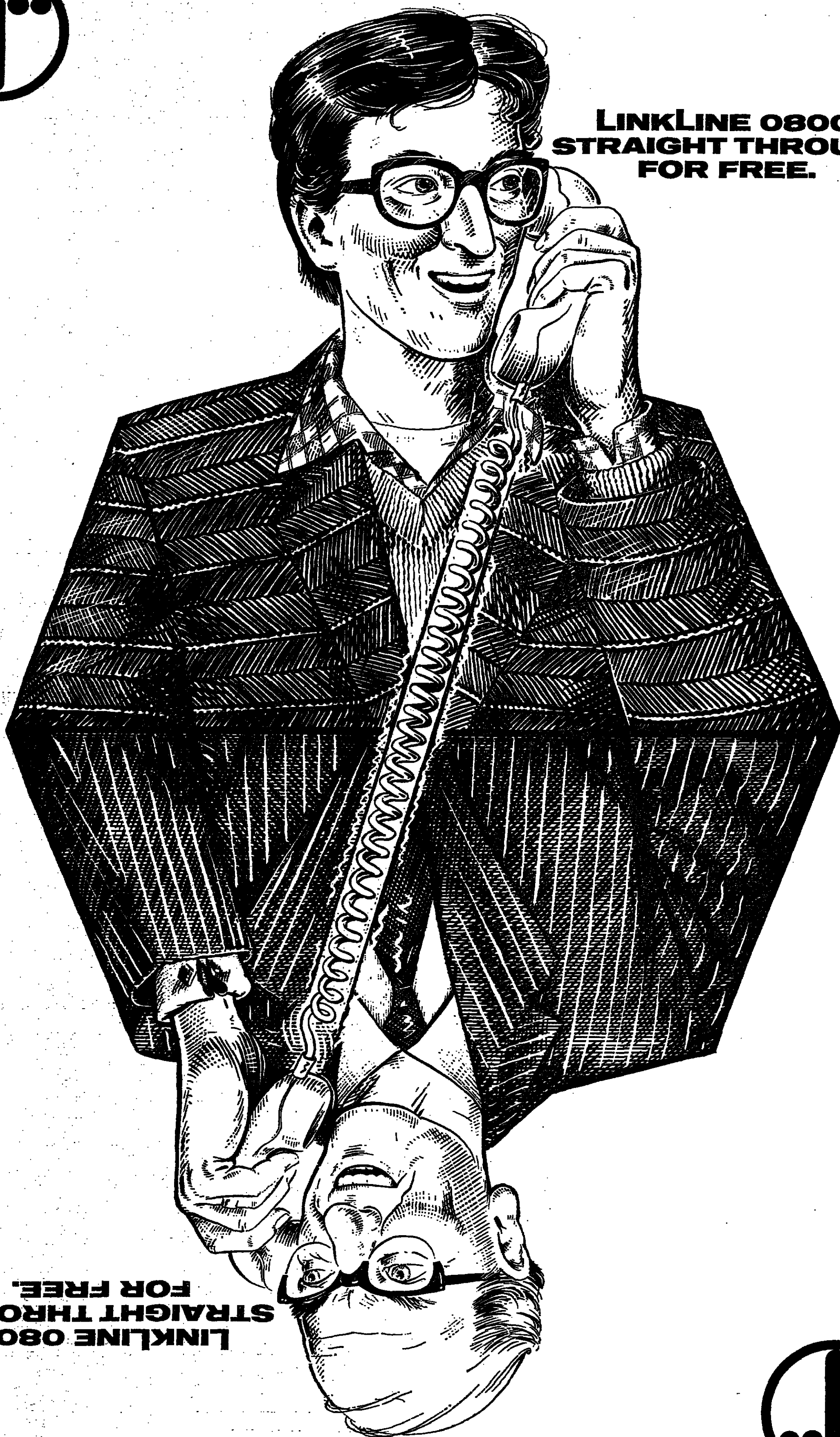
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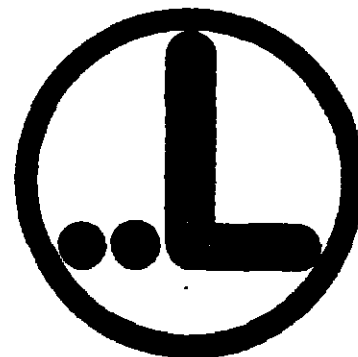
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Joint slate for Shadow Cabinet elections could bring left shift

By Colin Brown

Mr. Neil Kinnock's Shadow Cabinet could be radically moved to the left in forthcoming elections if the Tribune and Campaign groups stick to the joint slate which they published yesterday.

Among the Shadow Cabinet members who could be at risk from the combined 90 votes of the two groups are Mr. Donald Dewar (who got 75 votes last year); Mr. Giles Radice (81), the education spokesman; Mrs. Gwyneth Dunwoody (88), the transport spokesman; Mr. Barry Jones (89), Welsh affairs; Mr. Peter Archer (93), Northern Ireland; and Mr. Peter Shore (99), the Shadow Leader of the House.

But the left's agreed slate of 12 names could still break down if the MPs belonging to the two groups do not stick to the list. To impose some discipline the Campaign group have agreed that their 38 MPs should register their voting intentions on a list which will be published. The Tribune group have balked at this but some of their members have agreed to submit to the Campaign register.

The right believe that the left will be unable to deliver

their maximum vote. They point out that the left's slate was only reached after an acrimonious dispute over the Tribune group's insistence that Mr. Robin Cook should be one of four Shadow Cabinet members included on the list.

The Campaign group were reluctant to do this because some of their members argued that, since becoming head of the party's campaigning organisation he had been made a "captive of the Right." Having squeezed into the Shadow Cabinet in fifteenth place last year with 71 votes, his seat was most at risk. While the Campaign group believe they can deliver, they are doubtful about the Tribune group sticking to the agreement.

There is little doubt that some members of the Tribune group may find it hard to vote for Mr. Tony Benn, whose inclusion in the Shadow Cabinet could present Mr. Kinnock with some problems. Mr. Benn secured only 60 votes last year and missed a Shadow Cabinet place by coming in seventeenth position.

The left agreed to an initial slate of six names (including five campaign members): Mr. Benn, Mr. Stuart Holland, Mr.



AT RISK (top, left to right): Mr. Giles Radice, Mr. Barry Jones, Mrs. Gwyneth Dunwoody; (bottom, left to right) Mr. Donald Dewar, Mr. Peter Shore, Mr. Peter Archer



Michael Meacher, Miss Jo Richardson, Mr. John Prescott (a Tribune member who has Campaign support) and Mr. Gavin Strang. In a compromise Mr. Stan Orme and Mr. Robin Cook were added. Two further Campaign names were subsequently added — Mr. Tam Dalyell and Mrs. Margaret Beckett. The Tribune group is now balloting on the final two names which it is submitting to the list, but these are likely to be Mr. Bob Hughes and Mr. Norman Buchan.

The Campaign group yesterday expressed great satisfaction at having managed to include nine of its members in the list of 12 and it was generally accepted that even if the full complement of 90 votes is not delivered there will still be changes to the Shadow Cabinet in the elections for which the nominations open on October 17.

The right-wing Solidarity group yesterday issued its own slate of 15 candidates: Mr. Gerald Kaufman, Mr. Denis

Healey, Mr. John Cunningham, Mr. John Smith, Mr. Peter Shore, Mr. Peter Archer, Mr. Barry Jones, Mrs. Gwyneth Dunwoody, Mr. Giles Radice, Mr. Donald Dewar, Mr. David Clark, Mr. Terry Davis, Mr. Brynmor John, Mr. John Morris and Mr. George Robertson. They also are nominating five candidates for the National Executive Committee elections at the party conference: Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Shore, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Radice, and Mr. Jack Ashley.

SOUTH AFRICA

Thatcher firm on sanctions

By Alan Travis

THE PRIME MINISTER yesterday rejected a Labour call for economic sanctions against South Africa.

She was pressed in the Commons by Mr. Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, to follow the advice of the US Congress and Senate in banning new investment there.

He also urged her to withdraw the British ambassador from Pretoria.

The Prime Minister cited Mrs. Helen Suzman, a leading white South African opposition politician, to back her view that sanctions would be counter-productive and harm the economic interests of the country's blacks.

"While these events are taking place in South Africa it is extremely important that we have first-hand reviews of them from our ambassador there."

Mr. Hattersley said this was the feeblest sort of excuse. He added: "I have no doubt that the Prime Minister actually believes her answer because she cannot accept the importance of giving a moral lead on this or any other issue."

Labour anger over MPs who missed key vote

By Colin Brown

Labour MPs protested last night at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party about the absence of 17 backbenchers who could have tied the vote over the top salaries review pay awards in the Commons early on Wednesday morning.

Labour whips have since tried to limit the recommendations against the 17 to avoid the parliamentary party indulging in a squabble which could deflect attention away from the Government's own inept performance.

But the anger was still simmering yesterday among some Labour MPs, who pointed out that with 17 extra votes the vote would have been tied and the Speaker would have been obliged to cast his vote for the status quo, halting approval of the pay rises for top people and inflicting a serious setback on the Government.

The Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Mr. Roy Hattersley, sought to subside some of the anger at the PLP meeting expressed by Mrs. Ann Clwyd by emphasising that letters had been sent out to the 17 demanding an explanation for their absence and stating that they would have to see the chief whip to discuss it.

Mr. Hattersley also insisted yesterday that even with the 17 votes of the Labour MPs who were absent, the Opposition could not have defeated the Government. The chairman of the PLP, Mr. Jack Drommond, said, "We think we could not have won the vote, but what

we are really concerned about is to let our colleagues in the PLP see that we are as concerned as they are about the 17 people not being present for what was a very important vote."

A further 30 Labour MPs were also absent, but had been granted permission from the whips not to attend the vote. There are bound to be continuing criticisms of the whips for allowing some to leave Parliament on the night of the vote.

It emerged that 17 Labour MPs took part in one vote at 10 pm but were absent at 5 am, but some of these had been given permission to leave. They included the health spokesman Mr. Frank Dobson, who caught a midnight train for a party event in New York. He was specifically given permission to be absent and said yesterday he would have stayed had his whip asked him to do so.

There is, therefore, not only criticism of the 17 who were absent without leave but anger about the whips for not retaliating the closeness of the vote which could have resulted in the worst bloody nose the Government has suffered since taking office.

The chief whip, Mr. Michael Cocks, who is standing down in the autumn, was absent from yesterday's PLP meeting because he was attending the annual general meeting of his constituency Labour party, in which there are moves afoot by some Labour supporters to unseat him.

Libel action will be 'vigorously contested'

BANK COLLAPSE

By Alan Travis

The libel writ issued earlier this week against Mr. Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, by the former auditors of the Johnson Matthey bank will be most vigorously contested the Treasury Minister, Mr. Ian Stewart, told the Commons yesterday.

He refused to say whether any taxpayers' money would be used to foot the legal bills in the case when pressed by Mr. Denis Skinner (Lab., Bolton).

"He told MPs during question time that the writ had been issued by the former auditors — Arthur Young McClelland Moores — in response to a writ claiming damages against them issued by the Bank of England, which rescued JMB when it collapsed with £2.45 million losses last year."

"I can tell the House that the writ would be most vigorously contested," said Mr. Stewart.

He was replying to Mr. Skinner, who had said: "If the Chancellor is prepared to use the taxpayer's money to prevent a repetition of the JMB affair,

for the rescue then it must be wrong for the taxpayers to foot the bill for the legal expenses arising out of the writ." Mr. David Alton (L., Mossley Hill) asked how many heads had rolled in the Bank of England in view of the rescue of JMB. He said that the Chancellor had told the House that they were too busy to look into gaps in JMB's records.

"Why did he not call in outside assistance?" Mr. Stewart insisted that internal staff matters were for the Governor of the Bank of England. He denied that the Chancellor had said that they were too busy, but he explained that the affairs of JMB were in such a chaotic state that it took a long time to sort out and establish the gaps in the documentation.

Arthur Young issued the writ, claiming damages for alleged defamation by Mr. Lawson in remarks he made during Channel 4 TV news on June 20. The interviews followed Mr. Lawson's statement to the Commons that day when he announced a series of measures including tightening of banking laws to prevent a repetition of the JMB affair.

BUREAUCRACY

Victory over 'bumf'

By Alan Travis

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday claimed a minor victory in its battle against the mountain of paper which emanates from Whitehall.

Lord Gower, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said last night that 4,300 forms had been abolished during the last year out of the total of 10,000 government forms in use by departments.

A further 8,000 forms had been improved. Among the changes were the personal application for private, the notice claiming the right to buy council or other public housing, and the Local Language has been simplified in others.

In the rolling review of government forms in the last three years, one-third of government forms have been abolished. So far 15 of the 25 government departments have now reviewed all their forms or will have done so by the end of the year. The Government claims that just over £4 million was saved during the last 12 months as a result of the exercise.

CONTAMINATION

Staff in hot water

By John Carroll

WEARINESS in the management of the Parliamentary Works Office are revealed in a report yesterday on the contamination of the water supply in Westminster's Norman Shaw Building.

Sir George Young, junior environment minister, said an investigation had established that anti-corrosion chemicals were accidentally poured into the not become a Trojan horse for the Alliance parties.

ing which is used for MPs' offices. The result was that several secretaries for all day month after drinking contaminated water.

Sir George said that disciplinary action was being considered against staff. The report criticised communica-



Sir George: 'Disciplinary action considered'

tion in the Parliamentary Works Office and the Secretary of the Department. Action taken to prevent a similar accident include the ordering of chemical dosing equipment for the boilers, a check that all outlets marked "drinking water" are supplied from a single main and that the drinking water marked "not for drinking" are made for top at work, which are not supplied directly from a single main.

REFORM GROUP

Tory call for jobs

By Colin Brown

THE Tory Reform Group yesterday called for further measures by the Government to reduce unemployment.

The chairman of the group, Mr. Ian Patten, said in his journal, *Reform*, that despite the welcome drop in the June unemployment figures, the number of unemployed would continue to rise. The enterprise culture proposals by Lord Young were welcome but not enough, he added.

Mr. Patten also said that the Employment Incentive Scheme, launched recently as an all-party initiative to lobby the Government on reducing the unemployment total, should not become a Trojan horse for the Alliance parties.

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North may be cut off ahead of the elections

Blow for Obote as town falls and army split widens

By a Special Correspondent

Rebels fighting the Government of President Milton Obote in Uganda seized the eastern town of Fort Portal yesterday while a tribal rebellion within the government army threatened to cut off the north of the country, according to Ugandan and Western sources in Kampala.

The developments posed the most serious threat yet to President Obote who returned to power for the second time in 1980 after eight years in exile. A general election is due later this year and voter registration was planned to start next week.

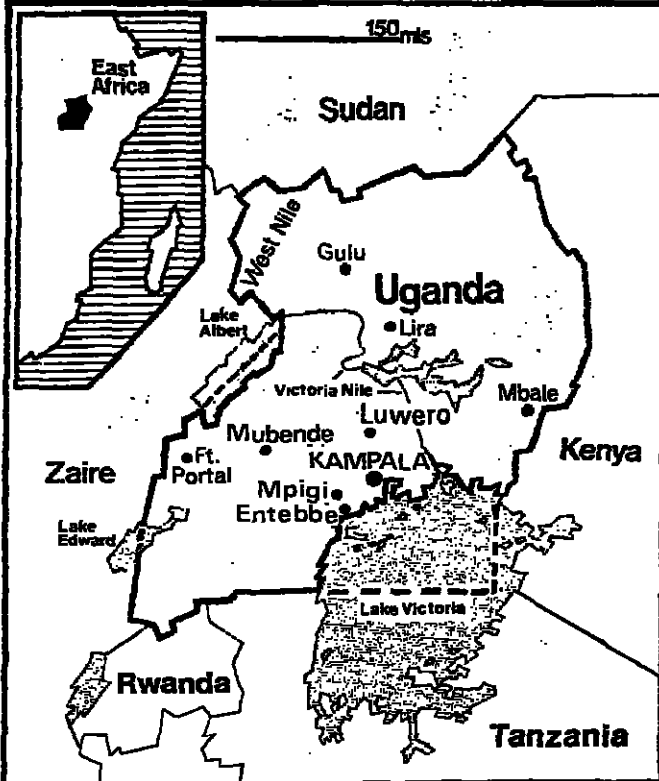
There has been a high level of tension within the Ugandan military since late June. Coup rumours were common earlier this month and Dr Obote did not attend the OAU summit in Addis Ababa. He was overthrown by Idi Amin when he was out of the country at the Commonwealth Conference in Singapore in January, 1971.

All roads into northern Uganda have been blocked by rebels from one faction of the army. West Nile, Gulu, Kitgum, and Lira are no longer accessible, according to officials in Kampala.

Fighting began among the government troops on Monday near the Karuma falls where General Tito Okello, the army commander and an Acholi, commands a large army faction. He is opposed by the army Chief of Staff, Smith Opon Akach, who is close to President Obote and is from his Langi tribe.

The Obote forces reportedly made an approach to the former Amin soldiers still living in West Nile or over the border in southern Sudan to fight off the increasing Acholi threat to Dr Obote's Government, but were repulsed, said sources said.

The erosion of Dr Obote's support within his own government intensified after disturbances in the university were brutally suppressed earlier this year, gun-fights between soldiers from Dr Obote's Lango area and those from the army commander's Acholi area, and



a bungled attempt to arrest the Vice-President and Minister of Defence, Mr Paulo Muwanga, on July 6.

Guerrillas led by the former Defence Minister Mr Yoweri Museveni, have been fighting Dr Obote since early 1981. A deeply flawed election returned the President to power without a majority of the country behind him in December, 1980.

Since then, persistent reports of torture and massacres by the Ugandan military in rural areas have been detailed by Amnesty International and other sources. British and North Korean military instructors have been powerless to impose any order or discipline in more than four years of cooperation.

The general insecurity in the country has made it difficult for aid workers or journalists to travel freely in recent

years. Claims by Museveni's National Resistance Army to control a large area around lower western Uganda have been impossible to verify, although a film made in the "liberated" areas last year made it clear that the guerrillas were numerous, well organised, and had a well-educated leadership.

Their arms supplies have mostly come from deserters from the government army, according to members of the leadership who occasionally travel to London.

Museveni recently travelled to Scandinavia where his visit coincided with that of President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania. Museveni was in exile in Tanzania and Mozambique during the Amin period, and began a small-scale guerrilla war to remove Amin before Tanzania sent in the army which brought him down.

Blacks shot down by police

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

FOUR MORE blacks, including a schoolgirl aged 16, have been shot dead by police, bringing the death toll to 15 since the state of emergency came into operation last Sunday.

Police continued to round-up leaders and members of the United Democratic Front and its affiliates, bringing to nearly 800 the number of people interned.

According to a police statement, the four people were shot dead when police opened fire with shotguns and rifles on a crowd of blacks stoning soldiers on patrol in the township of Daveyton, about 20 miles east of Johannesburg. Sixteen people, three of whom were women, were injured by gunfire, police said.

The clash occurred when the crowd was returning from the funeral of a victim of the unrest. "We were marching along on our way from the cemetery when I heard shots and saw people scattering in all directions," one of the mourners, Ms Elizabeth Mjoli, said.

Funerals of victims have become the major vehicle for mobilising resistance to apartheid, with meetings of 64 organisations were prohibited in 30 districts even before a state of emergency was declared last weekend.

The dead schoolgirl's grandmother, Mrs Sarah Ndebele, said that it was the first time the child had

attended such a funeral. Her granddaughter was forced to join mourners going to the funeral as they passed her house.

A spokesman for the Detainees Parents Support Committee, which monitors all detentions, yesterday expected the number of detainees to rise to at least 1,000 today. Police lists of detainees were about 36 hours out of date, he said.

The DPSC had reports yesterday of detentions in black townships outside the 36 districts where the emergency applies. Police do not need emergency powers to detain people; several clauses of the Internal Security Act grant them the necessary powers.

According to DPSC records, 100 people were held under the Internal Security Act at the end of last month, of whom nearly three-quarters were held under the clause providing for the detention of persons suspected of involvement in acts of terrorism.

Scrutiny of the latest list of detainees indicates that several of the UDF national leaders are still at large, believed in hiding since they heard about the imminent declaration of emergency.

The Congress of South African Students has been hardest hit among black organisations. Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister of Co-operation and Development, has meanwhile told the influential Afrikaans newspaper, Beeld, that reform will gain impetus on all fronts once "law and order" is restored.

The 11-point package deal, which Mr Gandhi's government has defended the state of emergency as a means of restoring the reform process, of saving it from destruction by "Marxists" striving to prevent black leaders from playing a constructive role in the new constitutional dispensation.

Gold shares slumped on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and the rand dropped sharply yesterday, reflecting foreign investors' renewed unease about the emergency. On the London foreign exchange market, one trader said the rand was the only currency to show a movement.

"People jumped on the bandwagon when they saw it dropping," said one trader.

SA emergency sparks protests

Pressure mounts on White House for a policy change 'beyond pious words'

From Alex Brummer in Washington

THE SOUTH African emergency has provoked a revision in the US, leading to big demonstrations outside the Pretoria embassy, large-scale arrests, and renewed efforts on Capitol Hill to pass sanctions legislation.

Police arrested 43 protesters here after the latest demonstration outside the embassy in which more than 1,500 Americans, including civil rights leaders, protested against Pretoria's racial policies. Among those arrested was Mr John Jacob, the president of the National Urban League, one of the more moderate of American civil rights groups.

In a ringing call to the Administration to change its policy towards Pretoria, Mr Jacob said: "We call on the American Government to move beyond pious words to immediate action to put the screws on South Africa's racism." While the White House has said that apartheid is responsible for the continued violence in South Africa, the State Department says that it is maintaining its policy of "constructive

engagement" and remains opposed to economic sanctions. The state of emergency has put fresh life into the struggle against apartheid which has been taking place outside the South African embassy here since last November. "There has been a resurgence of fervour," said Ms Lisa Croom, of the Washington Office on Africa whose group has been lobbying hard for sanctions on Capitol Hill in the latest protests, which are representing those killed in violence — are being piled up.

David Berestford, page 15

on the carefully manicured grass verges of Massachusetts Avenue — Washington's embassy row.

Until last week, some 2,900 people had been arrested during the last eight months outside the embassy and at more than 4,000 demonstrations at cities and university campuses around the country. With the latest arrests and resurgence in numbers of protesters, Congress is coming under strong pressure to take early action on reconciling the Senate and House versions of sanctions legislation.

Leaders in the Democratic-controlled House are urging an early meeting of the conference committee of both houses to reconcile differences between the tougher House bill and the milder Senate version. But members of the staff of Senator Richard Lugar, Republican chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, are trying to slow matters down, preferring not to act against the background of the present emergency.

The Senate bill, passed on June 11, would ban new bank loans and the export of nuclear technology to South Africa, and would require American companies with interests in the country to take an active stand against apartheid. The House version would go further, banning the \$500-million-a-year sale of Kruggerands in the US.

Some activists are reluctant, however, to push too hard for sanctions during the emergency for fear of giving the more conservative Senate an excuse for blocking action this year. They would prefer to wait until the scheduled conference after the August recess so that the legislation can be

steered through in a more orderly way. The Administration, while complaining about the state of emergency, appears reluctant to deepen the rift with Pretoria, symbolised by the recall of its ambassador. The State Department said that its goals remain unchanged: "promoting peaceful change away from apartheid, reducing cross-border violence, bringing about the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola."

The guiding hand behind the embassy protests, Mr Randall Robinson of TransAfrica said yesterday: "The people involved (in the protests) are prepared to go on as many months or years as necessary to bring about a change in American policy."

The demonstrations and the congressional action they have helped generate has raised the consciousness of Americans on the issue of apartheid. The latest polling, done before the start of the emergency, showed that some 62 per cent of Americans were conscious of the picketing against apartheid against 50 per cent a few months earlier.



On the ball: Township children at Alexandra, near Johannesburg, prepare to tackle

French withdrawal Kinnock issues new call for sanctions

From Campbell Page in Paris

France's decision to stop new investment in South Africa, mostly coal, uranium and gold, worth \$500 million from South Africa.

Coal imports reached 5.6 million tons and supplied a quarter of France's needs. In the first five months of this year the balance of trade was running at about £70 million in South Africa's favour.

The general secretary of the neo-Gaullist opposition party,

THE second of two nuclear reactors at a French-built power station near Cape Town began feeding power to the national grid yesterday.

RPR, Mr Jacques Toubon, said he was amazed to see Mr Fabius adopting the same views as the French Communist Party.

Mr Fabius's announcement is of some importance in the context of domestic politics only eight months before the National Assembly elections. It reaffirms the radical identity of a government often criticised for embracing centrist policies. It may also attract support from Communist sympathisers who had previously accepted their party leadership's disenchantment with socialism in action here.

The Communist leader, Mr Georges Marchais, had called for much stricter measures against South Africa shortly before Mr Fabius's announcement: the freezing of all agreements and contracts under discussion, the banning of all imports from South Africa, and the breaking of all cultural and sporting links.

black South African exiles community project, the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College, at Morogoro, established after the Soweto uprisings of 1976.

The community, which hopes to become self-sufficient, comprises 1,400 exiles farming a 3,500 hectare site provided by the Tanzanian government. Mrs Kinnock was greeted by school children singing songs for the release of the imprisoned African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela.

She met British volunteers as well as helpers from Scandinavian countries and Holland. During a visit to a classroom she told pupils who were studying English: "I hope you will soon be able to return to a free South Africa to continue learning English but not Afrikaans."

Mr Healey, speaking as MPs sat all night, renewed Labour demands for a withdrawal of Britain's ambassador and a ban on new loans and investment in the country.

Mr Healey proposed that Britain withdraw its ambassador, ban new loans and investment, seek a compulsory code of conduct for British firms in South Africa, tighten the arms embargo to shut off the supply of licences and components for aircraft which could be used for military purposes and make informal contact with the African National Congress.

He hoped that a free South Africa would ultimately rejoin the Commonwealth: "I am sure that the Commonwealth nations would embrace a non-racist South Africa."

South Africa dominated his final day in Tanzania. Mr Kinnock said it was important, however, that the lessons of what was happening today in Africa should focus on the need for systematic and effective action to ailing African economies.

Earlier, Mrs Glenys Kinnock emphasised the concern for South Africa by visiting a

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam in 'colony plot'

A SENIOR Kampuchean doctor who ran the country's largest hospital, has fled to Thailand to escape what he said were Vietnamese plans to colonise his country.

Dr So Saren, the former vice-president of the Kampuchea-Soviet Friendship Hospital, claimed at the Ta Phraya refugee camp that he was being sent to a Vietnamese settlement in the border region to make sure border regions to make sure for Vietnamese settlers. Dr So fled from Phnom Penh with his wife and six children.—Reuters.

Burma blast

BURMESE rebels blew up a passenger train, killing 11 people and wounding 112 on the main line between Rangoon and Mandalay, the Burmese News Agency said yesterday. The blast on Wednesday night was caused by a landmine.—Reuters.

Adverse ads

A DUTCH lorry maker, DAF Trucks has stopped advertising at football grounds in England because of soccer hooliganism. "We saw the billboards on television in the hands of rioting supporters. We like to appear on the screen, but not like that," a spokesman said.—Reuters.

Clearing bank

HONG KONG may be forced to empty its sperm bank unless its semen deposits can be screened for Aids, the Family Planning Association said yesterday. The director, Peggy Lam, said that equipment to test blood and fresh semen was arriving soon, but unless it could also screen existing sperm the bank would have to be purged.—Reuters.

Two hanged

TWO MEN sentenced to death for murder by the regional court in Krakow, in southern Poland, have been hanged, the Warsaw daily, Zycie Warszawy, reported. They were Andrzej Nowoslawski and Zdzislaw Grossmann.—Reuters.

Mud alert

ITALIAN civil defence leaders yesterday sought the immediate removal of a dangerous mountain of mud left by last Friday's dam collapse in the Stava valley which killed more than 200 people. The request was based on local weather reports which showed that a big depression was heading for the area.—Reuters.

Bombing spree

AFTER the death of a bystander in a car bombing outside the American consulate in Santiago, three multinational companies have been hit in a new wave of bombings, writes Malcolm Coward. Offices of the Chase Manhattan Bank, ITT and Anglo-American were damaged in residential districts of the capital.

En passant

DUTCH grandmaster, Jan Timman, will meet the Soviet world champion, Anatoly Karpov, in the final round of the Othello international chess tournament here today — a duel that Timman must win to be sure of overall victory.—Reuters.

Climber killed

A BRITISH climber fell 650 feet to his death on Wednesday on the Monch mountain in the Swiss Alps, police said yesterday. He was David Collins, aged 23, from Buckinghamshire.—Reuters.

Dog dinner

ANGRY animal lovers have sent more than 80,000 postcards to the Philippine National Assembly urging a ban on the sale of dogs and cats for human consumption. The cards show a photograph of a dog being cooked over a barbecue grill.—Reuters.

Mayor quits

THE MAYOR of Shanghai, Wang Daohuan, has resigned from his post as the city's largest city. Mr Wang, aged 70, told a municipal congress on Wednesday that he had quit because the country needed younger people to push through reforms.—Reuters.

Nasty business

THE VIDEO nasty movie craze sweeping parts of China is having a serious effect on society and has even caused some primary school students to take to crime, the official Guangming daily said yesterday.—Reuters.

Ghost town

ABOUT 2,000 coffins may lie beneath a three-block stretch of a residential neighbourhood in New Orleans where startled workmen have discovered human remains less than three feet below the surface. The coffins apparently date to the 1840s and probably were the paupers' graves.—Reuters.

Paper closes

The Lincolnshire Times closes today after 117 years of publication in the British and north Lincolnshire area. The owners said that economic reasons have forced them to close.

Cavern death

The body of Bridget Anthony, aged 29, of Coal Aston, Dronfield, near Sheffield, has been found at the bottom of the Cavern of Castleton, North Derbyshire. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

Militants condemn Sikh pact

Amritsar: Sikh militants, calling the settlement between moderates and the Government to resolve the Punjab crisis "a stab in the back" pledged yesterday to continue their "holy war" for greater autonomy.

Troops were placed on full alert yesterday in the state capital, Chandigarh, to head off possible unrest. The alert covered the entire state as well as neighbouring Haryana and Delhi.

The accord, worked out between the Sikh leader, Barchand Singh Longowal and the Prime Minister, Mr Gandhi, recognised the demand of Longowal's party, the Akali Dal, for greater religious and political autonomy. But the pact underlined that a settlement with the party must lie within the framework of a united India.

The 11-point package deal, which Mr Gandhi's government has defended the state of emergency as a means of restoring the reform process, of saving it from destruction by "Marxists" striving to prevent black leaders from playing a constructive role in the new constitutional dispensation.

Gold shares slumped on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and the rand dropped sharply yesterday, reflecting foreign investors' renewed unease about the emergency. On the London foreign exchange market, one trader said the rand was the only currency to show a movement.

"People jumped on the bandwagon when they saw it dropping," said one trader.

While the settlement was hailed as "historic" by the Indian press and by national opposition leaders, it spurred resentment in Punjab's two neighbouring states of Haryana and Rajasthan, whose territorial claims were overlooked.

The chief minister of Rajasthan, Haridev Joshi announced yesterday that his government rejected the accord. In Haryana, the opposition Lok Dal announced that its assemblymen would resign in protest.

In Gujarat state yesterday, the city of Ahmedabad was hit by bomb explosions wounding at least seven people and causing widespread panic.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) agency reported that the series of blasts emptied the city's streets and shops remained shut.

The explosions occurred as police were investigating whether a conspiracy was behind eight days of violence in which at least 40 people have been killed. — AP/Reuters.

Iran keeps Baghdad guessing in lingering war

As fighting flares, Iraq ponders how to hold the line against human waves

From David Hearst in Baghdad

ONE OF THE anniversaries that Iraqis will be less keen to celebrate this year will be the fifth anniversary of their war with Iran.

The regime of Saddam Hussein may have the tanks, the aircraft, and the money from his nervous Gulf neighbours to hold the line against Iran's human waves of soldiers indefinitely, but Baghdad is fast running out of ideas of how to end them.

Talk of an impending Iranian breakthrough in the mountainous regions of the north may be premature, but there is no doubt that the Iranian tactics of nibbling away at small areas of land along virtually the whole length of the 570 mile front advances appear to yield no greater chance of success.

The Iranians are undeterred by their losses. Iraq's Foreign Minister, Mr Tariq Aziz, appealed in vain for sympathy from the international community when he wrote last week to the UN Secretary-General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar. Mr Aziz claimed that while Iraq had repeatedly expressed its preparedness to end the war on an "honourable and just basis", Iran had consistently refused to accept peace.

In fact, Iran has consistently refused to make peace with Saddam Hussein and it is Ayatollah Khomeini's personal vendetta against the man who expelled him from Iraq as the price of peace with the Shah that presents the biggest obstacle to peace. It has become a war between two regimes, with each side hoping the other will crumble first.

The Iranians hope that the longer the war continues, the more discontent the Iraqi army, manned increasingly by conscripts, will grow. The Army is the only potential source of opposition capable of ousting the President, whose power base, the Ba'athist Party, is narrow with only 100,000 members.

But there are few, if any, signs that this is going to happen, despite the execution of the odd unsuccessful commander. For all its dynamic ruthlessness, the regime of Saddam Hussein has proved to be surprisingly adept at bending to the political realities of his people.

Both Christians and Kurds are represented in his choice of top ministers. Millions of dinars have been spent on developing the predominantly Shiite region of the south, and in Basra one poster predominates. It pictures Saddam standing reverently before the golden gate of the shrine of a mosque. Whatever the stringencies of war, Saddam has insisted on spending one million dinars in decorating the nation's mosques in gold leaf.

There are no visible signs of popular discontent on the streets. In Basra, which is closest to the front and has sustained at least 600 civilian fatal casualties as a result of Iranian shelling over the last five years, shops are open as usual and cars jam the centre.

Life goes on behind the double rows of sandbags. The only perceptible difference for the city's foreign community staying in Basra's luxury hotel, the Sheraton, is that the sandbags are now

round the bar, as well as the entrance.

Economically, the prolonged war is detrimental but not ruinous. With an estimated \$30 billion of aid provided by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, and Western companies willing to reschedule the debts they are owed, Iraq has continued to build roads, sewage, water treatment plants, hospitals, airports, and extended its railway network, despite the war.

With its plentiful supplies of new equipment and interminable column of heavy lorries on its roads, Iraq has been funded up to the hilt by its nervous neighbours. There is a saying in Baghdad that has broken down: "It has broken down."

But this will not continue indefinitely. Saddam's hope is to increase oil revenues by increasing production from the present level of 1.2 million barrels a day, to the pre-war level of 3 million b/d.

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Moscow throws down challenge on arms race

Russia to build new nuclear arsenal to counter Star Wars

From Moscow

The Soviet Union yesterday threw down its own arms race challenge to the US, promising to meet the American Star Wars development with a new generation of strategic nuclear missiles.

"If Star Wars continues, we shall have no choice but to take counter-measures, including the build-up and improvement of offensive nuclear arms," General Nikolai Chervov said on behalf of the Soviet general staff yesterday.

Soviet military experts believe that even if the Star Wars project is developed to the point where it can shoot down incoming missiles, the American defences can still be overwhelmed by increasing the overall number of Soviet missiles.

"We will not copy the American Star Wars idea in our response to their plans to achieve military superiority," the general added. "Other responses are possible and we shall take them into account."

A major build-up of strategic nuclear weapons. We have what it takes to counter America's ambition."

The implementation of the Star Wars project would liquidate all present Soviet-American agreements on maintaining strategic stability," the general said. "The Star Wars project and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 are absolutely incompatible."

The Soviet Union has now put forward such an implacable negotiating position that it is not easy to see what Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan will have to discuss at their summit in Geneva in November. The Soviet side has now stressed in the plainest possible terms that there can be no progress in any disarmament talks without an American commitment not to deploy weapons in space.

"The purpose of Star Wars is to disarm the Soviet Union," the commander of the Soviet Rocket Forces, Marshal Vladimir Tolubko, aged 70, was officially reported yesterday to have been replaced by "another talented and able military leader." The Rocket Forces include the country's long and medium-range nuclear missiles. — Reuters.

General Chervov said, "The Star Wars project is based on the belief that there can be a successful first strike and that a nuclear war can be won. But this would have inescapably fatal consequences for the American people themselves."

General Chervov and Mr Yuriy Izrael, chief of the Soviet negotiating team at Geneva, speaking at a formal press conference in Moscow yesterday, presented the Soviet Union's most detailed and closely-argued case against the Star Wars project, and reaffirmed the Moscow

view this Star Wars was not negotiable.

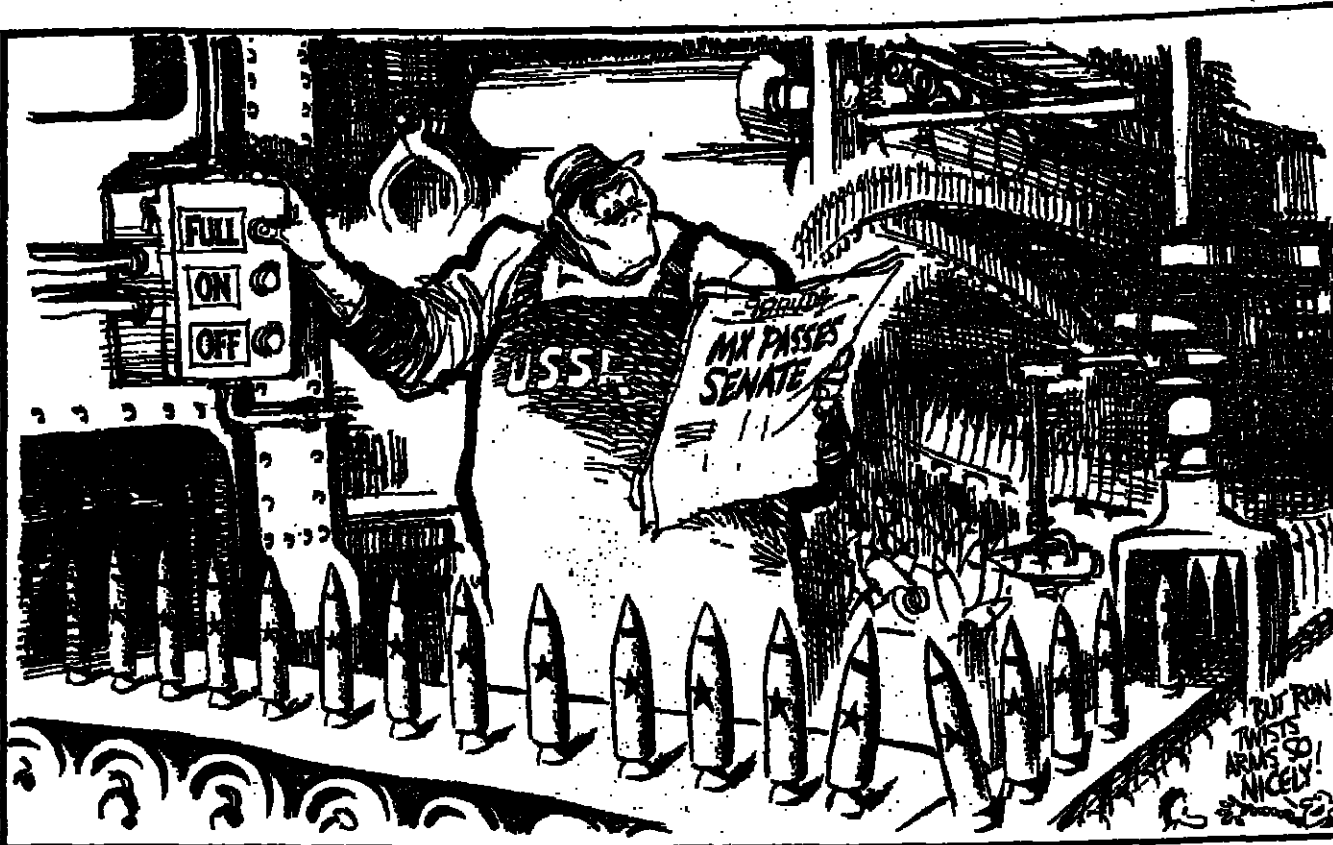
"The US is going for military superiority, and making a bid for an illusory impunity. Their talk of Star Wars as defensive systems is no more than a facade," Mr Kvitinsky said.

At one point, Mr Kvitinsky seemed to hint that the Soviet Union might be prepared for a compromise under which both superpowers would be allowed to conduct basic research on the concepts behind Star Wars, so long as no hardware were tested or developed.

"Our position is not aimed at barring fundamental scientific research," he said. "But under contract from a military agency should certainly be banned. But if a serious approach can be taken, a solution to this can be found."

But almost immediately, he shot down the idea, saying that the US was "already far beyond the limits of pure scientific research. The American Defence Secretary, Mr Weinberger, has already said that components are being tested."

General Chervov said that he had "no information" when questioned about the accuracy of Western reports that Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, removed last September as chief of staff and first deputy defence minister, has been appointed commander of Warsaw Pact forces. He did not say what Marshal Ogarkov's present duties were.



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Nerve gas gets US go-ahead

From Mark Tran in Washington

CONGRESS moved yesterday to ease terms for the production of nerve gas which were potentially embarrassing to its European allies.

In approving the production of nerve gas for the first time in 16 years, the House of Representatives had attached a number of conditions. The most stringent, from Representative John Spratt, required a formal decision from the North Atlantic Council — The Nato foreign ministers — to deploy chemical weapons in Western Europe.

Mr Spratt argued that because the weapons would be most likely to be used on European battlefields, Europeans should confront the issue and not leave the Americans to take the blame, as with the neutron bomb.

In that episode, President Carter was forced to go back on a decision to deploy in Europe after the public outcry about a weapon that he reportedly kills people but leaves buildings standing.

Mr Spratt's proposal was designed to avoid a similar fiasco, but other figures, such as Senator Sam Nunn, argued that putting pressure on Europe would simply stir things up.

Mr Spratt seems to have come round to this view after talks with the Democratic chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Mr Les Aspin. A group of Senate and House members, trying to reconcile different versions of the \$202 billion defence bill, agreed to adopt a more watered-down proposal.

This proposal merely requires the President to certify that he had worked out a deployment plan with the Allies. The Senate had approved the chemical weapons programme with few limits, precisely not to put Europe in a tight spot.

The congressional group is also expected to agree to a number of other safeguards. These include requirements that the Pentagon overcome technical problems with the chemical bomb and that the separate chemicals which combine to form a lethal agent in the new weapons be stored in separate states.

Around \$2 billion has been earmarked for nerve gas production, which is scheduled to start in October 1987. The two-year delay is designed to give the Administration and the Soviet Union a chance to reach agreement on banning the weapons.

The Soviet Union accused the US yesterday of blocking progress towards a ban on chemical weapons, by planning to resume production.

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Offer to reduce warheads is possible breakthrough

From Alex Brummer in Washington

In a potentially important breakthrough for the Geneva arms talks, the Soviet Union has told the United States that it is willing to discuss cutting its arsenal of strategic nuclear warheads by at least 30 per cent. Administration officials said yesterday.

The Soviet Union's suggestion, which came during the preliminary session of the second round of Geneva arms talks, has raised hopes that real progress could be made at the next round in September, before President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev meet.

Officials said yesterday that the Soviet Union's move was regarded as an important advance because they were now talking in terms of warheads — the Reagan Administration's preferred measure — and of cuts beyond the 25 per cent level which the Soviet Union had put on the table during a previous series of arms talks in 1983.

According to the officials, the Russians referred in the semi-formal post-planetary session to cutting "nuclear charges." This would mean that the Americans would be required to talk about the nuclear bombs carried on strategic bombers and cruise missiles as well as land-based systems. The US has been known to confine the discussion to land-based weapons systems

where it believes the Soviet Union has a clear advantage. The optimism now coming from parts of the Administration about the possibility of a deal on strategic weapons systems is in sharp contrast to initial statements from the Soviet Union and the White House after the second round broke up.

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General Chervov yesterday: "We have what it takes"

Pastora 'injured' but safe

From Michael Reid in Lima

FOR THE first time in 40 years, an elected president is handing over power to an elected successor in Peru this weekend.

In a sharp reminder of what lies ahead for the President-elect, Mr Alan Garcia, Sunday's celebrations will take place in a cordoned-off city centre with troops standing by in a national security operation aimed at foiling guerrilla sabotage efforts.

At the age of 38, Mr Garcia has the difficult job of making democracy work in a debt-ridden country where living standards are falling sharply. He must also confront political violence on a scale approaching civil war, with more than 6,500 deaths and 1,000 alleged "disappearances" in the past five years.

Mr Garcia led his centre-left Apra party to power with a sweeping victory in April's general elections on a platform of non-Communist change. His hopes of using his inauguration to launch a new and radical political initiative on the Latin American debt have suffered a setback. Only five Latin American presidents are certain to be here this weekend.

The absence of Mr Garcia's Social Democratic colleague, Mr Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, are not coming — some reportedly because of the security risk.

But Lima will play host to the foreign ministers of the Cartagena group of the 11 main Latin debtor countries. Mr Garcia has also shown his desire for a continental role in his outspoken support for the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Domestic issues dominate

Lima security net highlights difficult task facing Garcia

From Michael Reid in Lima

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Domestic issues dominate



● Mr Garcia: setbacks at swearing-in

the new Government's agenda. As well as the guerrilla threat, it will inherit an economy barely recovering from a deep recession, interest arrears of \$500 million on its \$14 billion foreign debt, and inflation surging towards 250 per cent this year.

Mr Garcia summoned foreign bankers last week to tell them that while he wants to repay the debt, the economy must be revived first. He also said that he would not immediately sign an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, whose austerity formulas he has said, "only make the situation worse."

Apra officials say that they need a breathing space from the banks to put in place their own programme of economic adjustment to raise exports and improve public finances.

Drastic measures are expected, such as dismissing civil servants, closing state companies, and taking a tough line with strikers, according to a senior state banker.

These policies would set the new government on a collision course with the trade unions, mainly controlled by the Marxist-oriented United Left

Front, the largest opposition party. Already, many of the country's 800,000 civil servants have been on strike for six weeks for increases in their monthly \$50 wages.

Mr Garcia says that trade unionists are a privileged group. He wants to use the State's meagre resources to increase agriculture, which is seen as the key to changing income distribution. The quarters of the population now receive less than a quarter of national income.

In particular, Apra says that it will step up development programmes in the poverty-stricken Indian peasant communities in the guerrilla-affected areas of the Andean highlands. However, the terms of inequality and centralisation established with the Spanish conquest are difficult to reverse rapidly.

Meanwhile, Mr Garcia has been clear that he supports the armed forces counter-insurgency operations against the five-year insurrection by the extreme Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrilla group.

Despite deploying up to 10,000 troops and armed police, the rebels have spread their hit-and-run actions to such of the country. They have also been joined by other small armed groups.

This week the Government declared a state of emergency in the province of Yauli, an important metallurgical centre 120 miles east of here.

Apra leftwingers, including the party secretary-general, Mr Armando Villanueva, have been critical of human rights violations by the armed forces, and have called for talks with Sendero. But Mr Garcia has been careful not to commit his Government on a point where party pressure is likely to conflict with military sensibilities.

Academic freedoms revoked

WARSAW: Parliament yesterday revoked many of the democratic freedoms won by universities during the Solidarity era and granted broad powers to the Minister of Education, including the right to dismiss teachers who do not follow Communist doctrine.

The amendments to the three-year-old law on higher education are aimed at ensuring greater Communist Party control over faculty appointments and promotions, course programmes, and student life.

Five MPs, including the Independent Roman Catholic bloc, voted against the amendments in a show of public opposition in the 460-seat parliament.

Mr Edmund Osmańczyk, independent, said the amendments would bring deep, irreversible damage to the country.

"The social and moral authority of our scientists has to be the stable value of our culture and state," he told Parliament.

The action followed months of public debate on the proposals, which were widely criticised by academics, students, and opposition groups as an unprecedented intrusion by the party into education.

Their approval came less than 24 hours after Parliament dealt the Solidarity movement another blow by voting to maintain laws barring workers from forming more than one union in factories.

The decision to allow only one union — that backed by the Government — at each factory ended any hope Solidarity activists had for a restoration of the banned union.

The Solidarity leader, Mr Lech Walesa, has criticised the amendments as an assault on what remains of the rights gained by workers in August 1980 when the Government recognised Solidarity as the first and only independent union in the Soviet bloc.

The law on higher education was passed under the influence of Solidarity's drive for liberalisation, and was unprecedented in Eastern Europe.

Government officials said changes were needed because anti-Communist groups had taken advantage of the law and were undermining the Socialist character of state-run schools. — AP.

EEC adopts plan to help consumers on goods liability

From Derek Brown in Brussels

EEC ministers yesterday gave an important boost to consumer rights by adopting a long-sought directive on product liability which will lay responsibility for faulty goods squarely on manufacturers.

The directive, for which consumer groups have campaigned for many years, will apply in all community countries in three years' time. It will sweep away the obligation on consumers to prove negligence on the part of manufacturers or faulty goods. But long and costly process which has deterred many potential claimants.

Instead, producers of faulty goods will be automatically held responsible for any damage or injury caused. The directive includes "certain exceptions" to the rule. For example, the producer will be freed from liability if he can prove that he could not possibly have known about the fault when his product was put on sale. But long and costly states will be able to override that exemption, if they want to give extra protection to consumers.

The new directive is planned to come into effect at the end of the year, when the deal on voluntary restriction of Japanese imports runs out.

The directive provides for compensation for death, personal injury, and damage to property. In the latter case the initial \$300 will be excluded to avoid excessive number of court cases.

At the other end of the scale, manufacturers successfully sued for personal damage in more than one case arising from the same product will have damages limited to a total of about \$42 millions.

EEC industry ministers have meanwhile signalled a massive increase in import tariffs on video recorders, most of which are made in Japan. Their move is intended as a warning to Tokyo to reduce the massive trade imbalance with Europe. It may also boost the relatively high European share of the video market.

They endorsed an EEC Commission proposal to raise the duty from 8 to 14 per cent, and a "compensatory" move to cut the duty on Japanese microchips from 17 to 14 per cent.

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Hijack prevention proposals agreed

From our Correspondent in Bonn

Officials of the seven leading industrial countries yesterday agreed at a meeting here on recommendations to improve aviation security and to prevent hijacking.

The experts from the US, Canada, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, and Japan also heard the American proposal for a boycott of Beirut airport, which called for a final assessment of the issue should be made by the governments concerned.

Officials said that most of the participants were still sceptical about isolating Beirut airport or withdrawing landing rights for Middle East Airlines of Lebanon.

According to diplomatic sources, the officials agreed that there should be "a more effective use" of the 1978 Bonn Declaration of hijacking, which called for the suspension of flights to and from any

country that refused to extradite or prosecute hijackers or failed to return hijacked aeroplanes.

The governments are also expected to seek greater scope for the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), which had so far been involved chiefly with the technical aspects of aircraft safety.

"They agreed to approach ICAO to seek a general tightening of standards, improved technical means, better-trained and equipped staff and improved reporting of suspicious incidents," the sources said.

Closer cooperation of this kind was prompted by the concern that, if it was established that the Air India crash in the Atlantic with the loss of 329 lives last month was caused by a bomb, more lives would have been lost this year through terrorism than through accidents.

Yesterday's report that Middle East Airlines has no flights there can only be a new beginning. We have to start again from scratch. — Reuters.

No resignation

BONN: The Austrian Agricultural Minister, Mr Guenther Haiden, yesterday rejected demands to resign because of the scandal about wines containing lethal additions of an anti-freeze additive. "To resign in this difficult situation would be desertion," Mr Haiden said.

"For the Austrian wine industry there can only be a new beginning. We have to start again from scratch. — Reuters.

Bonn to press for fighter decision

From Anna Tomford in Bonn

The Government is determined that there should be a final decision on the European jet fighter project by the end of this month, despite its failure to bring a compromise from the French on their ideas for the aircraft.

Officials said yesterday that the Defence Minister, Mr Manfred Wörner, sent to Paris by Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Wednesday in an attempt to sway the French — returned empty-handed from his talks with President François Mitterrand and his Defence Minister, Mr Charles Hernu.

They said that no decision had been taken on whether the five-country project, including Britain, Italy, and Spain, could be saved, or should be scrapped. They regretted the lack of compromise shown by the French.

Sources said that Paris was casting about for a Franco-German solution, and was hoping the possible extension of the French nuclear umbrella to West Germany and other strategic considerations to the fighter.

Mr Wörner said in a newspaper interview yesterday that a final decision on the \$20 billion project would be taken before July 31. If one of the participating governments did not want to go along with the programme, it could seek an "alternative" consortium with as many of the others as possible.

While France wants a light, cheap, ground-attack fighter it can export to other states and demand a larger order for the production that its partners, the four other states want a heavier combat model on the lines of a project put forward by Britain.

German newspapers speculated yesterday that, despite Mr Wörner's hints that the programme could be realised without France, Bonn could be inclined, for political reasons, to go for a Franco-German project.

The five-country project, which was supposed to start in October 1987, the two-year delay is designed to give the Administration and the Soviet Union a chance to reach agreement on banning the weapons.

The Soviet Union accused the US yesterday of blocking progress towards a ban on chemical weapons, by planning to resume production.

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THIRD COLUMN

The guts of power

WHEN the first emperor of China died unexpectedly away from the capital, his wise prime minister feared that the princes and others might make trouble in the land. So the imperial coffin was brought back in a closed litter, with food and official reports passed in by trusted eunuchs. Because it was summer and the corpse began to rot, the litter was followed by a cart of staked fish to disguise the stench.

Methods of massaging public opinion have developed a good deal since the death of the emperor Qin Shi Huangdi in 208 BC, and much more pleasant odours are now used to disguise unpleasant possibilities. The sudden illness of Mr Reagan, and any possible question which it might provoke about what is called the leadership of the Western world, were sanitised as hygienically as the President's colon by firm-jawed men in grey suits telling us that everything was under control.

What the affair should dramatise is the extreme frailty of an international system whose life or death hangs from the First to the Third World — rests legally on the decision of one man. In 1901, largely because of the hysterical reaction of Secretary of State Alexander Haig, there was a reminder of a vital part of Mr Reagan's "balloon" (the "black box") was lost for two days. Vice-President Bush had not taken his with him, so nuclear power passed to Secretary of Defence Michael Weinberger who then had a furious row with Mr Haig over raising the alert level of the US nuclear forces.

This time it had all been worked out in advance and the balloon was apparently pinned in the hospital corridor. Except for the brief period when he surrendered control to Mr Bush, Mr Reagan retained the theoretical ability to launch a nuclear war, even in the first groggy hours of post-operative recovery.

At least we suppose this to be the case. None of the hard-nosed reporters who asked insistently to be told the length of Mr Reagan's incision seemed to have inquired after these nuclear arrangements. The President's guts are of much greater interest than the inner working of what is technically known as Command, Control, and Communications.

Whether Mr Reagan, well or otherwise, is the right man to be at the apex of this command pyramid is another unasked question. The "leadership" of the Western world benefits from a suspension of disbelief not always enjoyed by the leaders of other parts of the world. We share the same political culture where a relative degree of openness on secondary issues puts clothes on the great unmentionables.

Other countries' presidents have to work hard to be taken seriously in the Western press, especially if they speak in a foreign language very fast, or if they speak in any language about socialism or imperialism. Mr Reagan is labelled the showman, but usually with the journalistic equivalent of an indulgent smile. He benefits from an assumption that he has something serious to say, however he chooses to say it, which is not always enjoyed by Fidel Castro or Jerry Brown or even Mr Papandreu.

Speculation about the effects of ill health on the leadership in communist or vital Third World countries is also much less inhibited. One of the most striking features of the Reagan cancer story was the shortage of comments from Western governments, who seemed wary even of sending get-well messages in case they might be misinterpreted.

The President of the US has been democratically elected. But he is then free to exercise as much power as Mr Chernomko or Mr Deng Xiaoping, who have not the informal constraints which much the same autocrats have to predict in advance. Would the Politburo have stopped a nuclear war if he survived into the years of party predict in advance. Would the Politburo have stopped a nuclear war if he survived into the years of party predict in advance. Would the Politburo have stopped a nuclear war if he survived into the years of party predict in advance.

John Gittings



Image maker and subject — a scene from World in Action's Bhopal special (right) and Channel 4 camera crew at work in Nepal

From famine and other kinds of disaster to relatively unexceptional events, the Western media have problems in making documentaries about the Third World. MICHAEL SIMMONS reports

More to show than agony of the hungry

FAMINE is by no means new to Ethiopia. Over 1,000 years ago, the Emperor was writing to a friend that "God hath restrained the heavens so that they cannot rain... all our men are dying." The "news" that a BBC television crew broke last October of the latest disaster was not news either. People in the know, some of them writing for this page, had predicted it months and even years before.

What seemed to be new was the close-focus confrontation between suffering people and television cameras, shown to a peak audience at peak viewing time. Not since the end of the Vietnam war had what was really happening in the Third World impinged so deeply on First World consciousness.

Children with terminal hunger problems, eyes glazed and possibly no longer caring whether they live or die, may hardly be aware of the "good shots" being soured by the photographer at their feet, but in faraway Addis Ababa — following the famine of 1974 — the Emperor Haile Selassie and his government were topped partly as a result of the famine, and partly by the famine of a Jonathan Dimbleby film of the starving.

More recently, the royal court of Saudi Arabia has been shaken by the showing of ITV's Death of a Princess, and India's Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, was furious with Mrs Thatcher after the BBC had shown Sikhs rejoicing at his mother's death.

The spasmodic rather than "serious" interest of the First World in the Third is one which concerns Michael Ryan, who in a Granada TV series, Rich World, Poor World, sought to depict on film the problems thrown up by the Brandt Commission. In his view, Bob Geldof's Live Aid may have "grabbed a guilt nerve, but there are more sophisticated questions that television has to answer. While hunger in Africa or poverty in Bangladesh are "easy" to film, once one tries to depict Brazilian debt or the difficulties inherent in getting a clean water supply somewhere else, then the problems arise.

"But," he claims, "it is the business of TV to confront these problems. We have to open our ears. There is more to hunger than the cry of agony of the hungry." Old hands identify two problems. One has to do with the quality of people making

films about the Third World. The other has to do with "impact." Impact in the suburban sitting-room is good; impact on location can be wrong.

David Collison, director of a forthcoming film on lepers in Nepal says: "If you march into a place where they may never even have seen a camera and stay for five weeks, you have an enormous impact. You disrupt the lives of a lot of people. And if it goes wrong, they have to live with the back-wash — for 30 years or more. You have to leave the situation as you found it."

Some directors, in their zeal, clearly do not leave the location, or the host country, as they found them. Some Third World governments, according to Laurie Flynn, who made a recent World in Action "special" on the Bhopal gas disaster, feel they get a thorough "rubbing" from some film-makers. "They regard us," he adds, "as dangerous beasts."

Sensitivity over the filming of extraordinary events extends also to the making of programmes which might be seen as comparatively straightforward. Farrukh Dhondy, a commissioning

editor with Channel 4, says that every time plans to film are submitted — as they have to be — to the authorities in India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh, for instance, there is a reflex reaction from the powers-that-be and the would-be director's intentions are thoroughly scrutinised.

"The tradition of these authorities," he points out, "is one of heavy guidance or censorship. They expect a certain restraint as a matter of course, and they are also extremely shifty about anything which might affect their image."

Third World governments, Dhondy suggests, are often unambiguously against film or television programme makers from the developed countries, and confront them with something like the nationalism with which they once confronted the colonial powers. "These governments say everything is all right when in fact everything is not all right," he says.

Next Thursday's Channel 4 programme in the From the Face of the Earth series will be devoted to a vivid and sensitively made film set in a Nepal leper colony. Farly because of the nature of the subject matter, but also partly

because a crew of seven was descending on a remote spot of a Third World country, shooting could only begin after a series of complicated negotiations had been completed. These centred at one level on funding: the five-part series has cost about \$1.5m, out of which the leprosy film cost rather less than \$300,000.

But at another level, David Collison, and his team had to spend no less than three weeks haggling with the Nepal authorities before the work could start, and that was only after some preparatory diplomatic spadework had been done by his researcher, Michael Johnston. It is worth noting that permission to make a film on the same subject had already been turned down by the relevant authorities in Ethiopia and India.

"It took a long time to persuade them that there were no business interests or television programme companies who were going to profit from the film," Collison says.

Even so, documentary-making is about money as much as anything else. Michael Latham, series producer for From the Face of the Earth, sitting in his very "First World" Oxford Street

office, says documentaries do not make money. "If you break even you are doing well. Rain, wind or shine, you have to get out there, film, and get home — otherwise you are broke. Every day you don't shoot is a disaster as far as the budget is concerned."

The hard men and women of journalism, who used to be in newspapers, idiosyncratically scouring the earth with portable typewriters in the search for "scops," are now in television. Some of them will be committed to the notion that there should be more programmes devoted to Third World issues.

Some of these people worry about fund-raising and programme controllers alike. Frank Civitanovich, an experienced ITV film-maker, argued in the latest IBA yearbook report that "too many people who should really be writing fact-filled stories for the New Statesman are allowed to get their hands on film... Unfortunately, talent and ability are excessively rare."

But despite the notional conflict that arises between those who would like to see more documentaries being made — who have their supporters at senior levels in both the BBC and ITV, and those who may be misguided

in the sort of films they want to make, there is a strong feeling in the words of one director, that "we must move forward from Brandt."

Tony Isaacs, a respected BBC documentary maker, insists that "despite costs and other problems, we should be doing more" — and Paul Bonner, Channel 4's controller of programmes, says "We have to find new ways of relating our audience to the problems of the wider world." Television documentaries in or about the Third World are hardly the most popular viewing. Channel 4, which shows proportionately more such films than any other channel, was watched for around seven per cent of the average viewers' total viewing time.

The school of thought to which Granada's Michael Ryan subscribes, suggests that if First World viewers were as informed about the Sahel as they are, say, about council housing or even the EEC, then a lot of problems would evaporate. The corollary at controller level, is that all documentary-commissioning has to be done on the crossed-fingers principle, and that anyway "in television, nothing exists until someone gives you eighty grand."

ANTI-APARTHEID

The dirty tricks get slicker

Kevin Toolis on South Africa's methods of combating opponents in Britain

THE recent attack on the Anti-Apartheid Movement's London offices is part of a continuing campaign of subversion waged by the South African government against apartheid opposition groups and the African National Congress in Britain, according to Anti-Apartheid Movement leaders.

Last week's arson caused £10,000 worth of structural damage to the north London headquarters of the AAM, and a large volume of flammable liquid were put through the letterbox in the early hours of Tuesday morning and set alight. The fire destroyed the office equipment and materials or office equipment were destroyed.

AAM leaders were in no doubt that the attack was "South Africa inspired" and part of the continuing "dirty tricks" campaign. "We were burgled in May 1983 immediately after we exposed the

Marconi deal. This arson attack came within days of the Birmingham arms trail and immediately after the publication of a detailed 58-page memorandum on arms to South Africa," said Mike Terry, general secretary of AAM.

AAM has of course no way of proving this claim but more sophisticated attempts by South African agents to influence British public opinion and the government are on the increase. Presenting itself as an "international humanitarian organisation," a 30-strong South African lobby group, Victims Against Terrorism, held a protest meeting in May outside the ANC's north London offices to "commemorate" the 19 people killed by an ANC bomb in Pretoria in May 1983.

Picardis denounced the ANC as the "IRA's sister organisation" and as part of the "terrorist international network." The group laid wreaths and held a prayer meeting. The protesters also included a number of black elected officials and Mrs Joyce Kimbiri, the widow of a Uitenhage councillor killed recently.

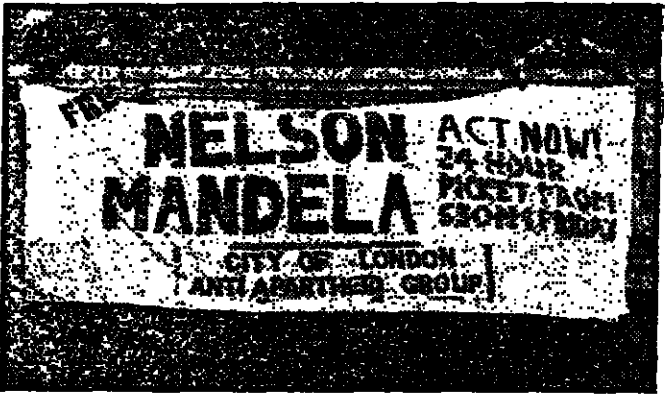
Later that week the group were received at the Foreign Office where they met senior officials on the South Africa desk. They were also interviewed on the BBC's World at One programme where their chairman, Jonathan Leontinis, who described himself as a businessman, repeated his denial that his organisation

had links with the South African government and described Victims Against Terrorism as "a charitable organisation devoted to informing the news media and the public about the nature of international terrorism." Adverts were placed in the Daily Express, Daily Telegraph and in the April edition of Crossbow, the Conservative Party group publication, urging the expulsion of the ANC from Britain and appealing for support and members.

In spite of his denials, Jonathan Leontinis appears to be linked to the South African intelligence community and the work of the South African spy Major Craig Williamson — believed to have masterminded the 1982 burglary of the ANC's London office. Leontinis was also chairman of a South African security police front organisation, the Security Forces Support Committee set up in 1983 to counter human rights activities by the parents of those detained under South Africa's emergency legislation.

VAT and SFSC still share the same address and both are in Lyndhurst, South Africa. Leontinis openly admitted, at the time, that SFSC used to "consult" Major Williamson on the contents of the organisation's newsletter. "We support the security forces as a whole and if that means the security police, well that is fine," said Leontinis.

The links between Major Williamson, Leontinis and the SFSC's treasurer Paul



London Anti Apartheid in action earlier this year

Amussen, a former security policeman, are extensive. All were attended to school together and have maintained their friendship.

Williamson is also closely associated with the "head" of the international division of VAT, Bertil Wedin, who was charged but later acquitted of the 1982 burglary of ANC's offices. Williamson recruited Wedin in 1980 in South Africa. Two other members of the "dirty tricks" squad were subsequently convicted.

Both ANC and AAM have strongly protested to the Foreign Office over the recognition given to Victims Against Terrorism. In reply the Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, claimed the meeting of the Foreign Office's established policy of meeting a wide range of opinion.

A sympathetic account of what he sees as an heroic tale. Dr Parfitt's years of working in Israel gave him access to the Mossad chief he nicknames "Joshua," who was running the operation in Khartoum. He pieced together an astonishing story of US, Israeli and Kenyan complicity in an operation where Mossad agents (some of them Falashas living in Israel) travelled deep into Ethiopia to bring the Falashas out.

The penetration of the Sudanese government meant they could arrange the sucking and victimisation of numerous honest Sudanese officials (including the dedicated Commissioner for Refugees, Ahmed Abdul Rahman) who asked questions.

According to Parfitt the "Kenyan route" dried up after the fall from power of the former Minister for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Charles Njonjo.

Victoria Brittain, Third World Review editor

ENVIRONMENT

Ahead of the field

Kent MacDougall on the world-beating research of the Worldwatch think tank

WHEN Worldwatch Institute released a study on soil erosion last autumn, it made headlines around the world in scores of major newspapers that had already reported on the same study eight months earlier when it appeared as a chapter in the research orga-

LETTER

Backlash blunder

Sir — To suggest, as Mr Malik did (Third World Review, July 12), that the landslide election victory of Rajiv Gandhi last year was due to a Hindu backlash which followed Mrs Gandhi's assassination, is the height of perverseness.

In fact, a large proportion of Muslims and other minorities voted in favour of the Congress Party. The opinion poll published in the Indian press before the election showed that 63 per cent of Muslims would vote for the ruling party, and this was borne out by the large number of Muslim-dominated constituencies returning Congress candidates.

The anti-Sikh spasm perpetrated by some over-zealous congress workers has no doubt had some effect on the voting intentions of some electorates in the north. But in other states such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu etc., the overwhelming success of the Congress Party cannot possibly be attributed to a Hindu backlash alone.

The over-riding factor which contributed to the success of the Congress party was the issue of the unity of India.

Randhir S. Bains, Gants Hill, Essex.

NORTH/SOUTH

Hammered but not broken

THE state of emergency in South Africa will make it harder than ever to predict what is really going on there. The floating images of violence in the townships have become the everyday fare of television, but The Hammer, a 40 minute documentary made by International Defence and Aid brings this civil war into a different, and clear, focus. GS to hire, £20 for a cassette from IDAF 64 Essex Road, London N1L.

This film shows outsiders for the first time the real face of opposition to apartheid in the United Democratic Front in action. The front opposition leaders of South Africa jump out of this film. These leaders are black and Indians with a rare white — like South Africa's population. One after another they have the same message —



Zindzi Mandela

South Africa belongs to us, its citizens. As the Rev. Allen Bosnak puts it: "We want our rights and we want them here and we want them now." Nelson Mandela's rejection of conditional release, read by his daughter Zindzi to a vast crowd in Soweto, is the climax of the film: "I cannot and will not give any undertaking at a time when I and you, the people, are not free. Your freedom and mine cannot be separated."

Early days of Moses

THE tribulations of the 15,000 Ethiopian Jews now living in Israel continue with the row over their religious status and need for ritual conversion. An even bigger row is likely to be hushed up over a new book revealing for the first time just how some of them got to Israel.

In early 1980 a white man claiming to be an aid official approached Sudanese officials working for refugees. He was carrying in his briefcase 400 Kenyan work contracts and a letter from a high-ranking official in Kenya confirming that the men would be employed by a Kenyan company near Nairobi.

When Operation Moses hit the headlines earlier this year Dr Tudor Parfitt of London University was already deep in research on lesser-known Jewish communities around the world. His new book, Operation Moses: the Untold Story (Weidenfeld and Nicolson £8.95), is a

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Waldemar Januszczak reports on how the work of Eric Fischl turns the viewer into a detective and voyeur

A peep through the keyholes of America

IT'S LATE, and hot. In the motel room, a father and his son try to sleep, naked and without the covers on, unaware that in their sleep they both adopt identical postures, curled up like little boys, unaware that in their sleep their faces look eerily alike. But we know. Because, courtesy of Eric Fischl, we are watching.

Fischl's art spies on its subjects from somewhere around the level of the keyhole, or perhaps higher, from around the eyeline of a curious young boy wandering around Middle America peeping into the world of the adults.

Looking into the bathroom he sees a woman drying herself over the bidet, her ungainly pose adopted with a complete lack of self-consciousness in the belief that no one is watching. In another part of the house a young woman has come down in the night to answer the phone. She has had time to put on any clothes and clutches her arms to her skinny body to keep warm. She too is clearly unaware of our presence.

It is not difficult to see why Eric Fischl's work is currently arousing so much interest, written about in all the art classics shown at all the biennials. The very awareness of his images is magnetic. You feel you are being presented with fragments of a narrative that demand to be put together into a whole. It is like watching a film with the soundtrack missing. The sense of story, of something happening is very powerful. But the artist never gives you enough information to complete the narrative. The viewer is cast in the role of a detective. And loves it.

Fischl seems to me to be



Master Bedroom (detail) by Eric Fischl (1983)

long firmly in the tradition of Andrew Wyeth and, more particularly, Edward Hopper. Like Hopper his art observes a world in which there is little communication between the actors, an alienated world where the human beings are locked inside their own thoughts and their own homes.

Hopper used to ride around on the elevated sections of the subway peering into office windows watching secretaries working, "smoothing their hair with automatic hand." Fischl waits till after 5.30. His art follows them home to the

suburbs. It waits till they crawl into bed with their clothes off and turn on the TV to keep themselves company. It waits till they begin to imagine they can hear a noise outside.

Fischl's nudes are not pin-ups. Indeed the artist takes almost exaggerated care to communicate their ordinariness. The girl on the bed clutching a large dog in Master Bedroom has cutters in her hair. The one who answers the phone in New House is thin and awkward.

We are close to the world of Diane Arbus here, Ameri-

can reality unflinchingly observed. But whereas Arbus used freaks in order to underline the sense of alienation she was trying to photograph, Fischl deals with ordinary people, the romance squeezed out of their lives, who live by the light of the refrigerator door in cool, air-conditioned interiors and gleaming, white-tiled kitchens.

There is a very tangible sense of place to these paintings, a physical sense of place and an emotional one. Physically we are in the white middle-class suburbs, moving from bathroom to

kitchen to bedroom and then out into the garden with its closely cropped lawn and whirling sprinklers.

Emotionally we are experiencing the awakening sexuality of the young boy of the house, his first innocent exposure to female nudity in the presence of sisters and mothers. Much of the frantic peeping that goes on is accompanied by a strong sense of guilt. My own view is that the work is strongly autobiographical, and that the young boy who appears in so many of the pictures has to be recognised as the artist.

Dog Daisey is Fischl's clearest statement on the subject of teenage sexuality. The two connected panels elaborate upon the rather cheap pun of the title. In the left hand panel, a pair of small dogs are shown alertly watching a naked woman on a balcony. In the adjacent panel the place of the dogs has been taken by a young boy with a teenage erection who fingers the body of the girl before him. Dog-days we are reminded, are days of great heat.

In Sleepwalker, the young boy is seen in the garden at night, standing in an inflatable swimming pool, masturbating. Bad Boy deals more directly with the sense of guilt. The light streaming through a Venetian blind paints the room and its inhabitants in zebra stripes. The boy pretends to stare at the naked woman on the bed. But behind his back he steals money from her purse.

Animals play a curious role in Fischl's art. Almost every picture has a dog in it. They are not strictly speaking pets, like the toy dogs which litter the portraits of Van Dyck, or Landseer's loyal four-legged friends. Fischl's dogs provide a kind of parallel presence to his humans, a persistent reminder of dumb animal behaviour. In Dog Days the alertness of the dogs is echoed by the young man's erection. In Master Bedroom the dog becomes a giant pillow to be hugged. But the sexual tension is always there.

The subject-matter of Fischl's paintings is undoubtedly curious. It continues an established American realist tradition and by making it more personal, more spooky, more neurotic, takes it into new areas of intrigue.

The major short-coming of the work is the painting itself which is often lifeless and awkward. There is little pleasure to be had from inspecting the brushwork close up, few signs of a confident touch. I am tempted to argue that this stiff brushwork is deliberately employed by the artist to emphasise the alienation of his subjects. But I have never met a painter yet who deliberately painted less fluently than he could so I suspect that we are indeed seeing Fischl at his awkward best.

Eric Fischl at the ICA until August 21.

Hugh Hebert
reviews Arena and
Pinter play

All that Shiraz

A DOZEN years ago the American theatre guru Robert Wilson went to Shiraz in Iran and put on a show that covered seven hills and lasted seven days and that was just the first night. I suspect its duration was also the length of its run, but Arena (BBC2) was not too specific on this point; though true to the belief that minimalist theatre has to last forever, it's devoting another hour to Wilson's work next week. The only thing that is not minimal is his formidable energy and the commitment required of an audience. In the theatre of Robert Wilson the participation is a sore buttock.

Not many people in this country have yet had a chance to find out if it is anything more.

His productions are a mixture of movement and modern dance, sounds, Glass-like music, and the repetition of enigmatic phrases in hypnotic monotonies. But the overwhelming impression from this first programme is that he is a creator of stage pictures. "I've never talked with Bob when he's not drawing," said Glass.

What he is drawing often looks remarkably like illustrations of Expressionist theatre from the twenties, just as what his texts say often suggest earlier forms of disjunctive writing — surrealism, Dada. But where they were influenced by what psychoanalysts told us about the mind and about disorder in and of the mind, Wilson works with that disorder directly.

His first major success, the seven-hour Deafman Glance, derived largely from the perceptions of a young deaf man, expressed in images and signs. And we saw Wilson talking with Christopher Knowles, whom he met as a brain-damaged child of 12, and who has bred into the stage works brief concrete poems from the twenties, that is, in Wilson's words, "are visually and architecturally organised, almost like Mozart." But we weren't given enough to make our own judgment.

The virtues of the programme like this is that it can make avant garde work seem comprehensible and appealing. (It can also, of course, confuse us wickedly.) What it cannot do is to make the work appealing and comprehensible to those who are not already familiar with it. Wilson's work seems lyrical, logical, and imbued with profound and patient meaning. This week on BBC2 we have had the chance to see two of his short plays, The Dumb Waiter (1967) and One For The Road, his most recent.

This was virtually a monologue for Alan Bates as the interrogator of a political prisoner, his wife and small son, who are tortured and brutalised in the process of being subjected to a psychological third degree. A masterly performance from Bates, but in a play that for my money isn't a patch on The Dumb Waiter.

One thing, it's pretty late in the day for Pinter to follow Koestler, Orwell and goodness knows how many others into the interrogation room, unless he has something new to reveal, and I don't think he had. For another, The Dumb Waiter is very funny as well as full of menace, with two sharply realised characters — hired assassins — played lawlessly by Colin Blakely and Kenneth Cranham. It made most other recent television drama look pallid and amateur. It lasted 55 minutes.

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Val Arnold-Forster's weekly round-up

Radio liberties

PLEASE SIR, it wasn't me. Please Sir, it wasn't me. Please Sir, I'm sorry. That is the sound of your radio critic reaching guiltily that over the years I've argued that Radio 4 has to persuade those born into the television age that radio has more to offer than music and DJs.

And now we've got Pirate Radio 4 on Thursday mornings on 1580, using Radio 4's ability to edit its frequencies — as if for educational programmes — in an attempt to grab the teenage market. Which is why I'm apologising to any ordinary Radio 4 listener who likes to listen on 1580 and from what I've heard so far, even more to any teenager who has tried out this lot. So far, the favour has been local radio at its worst, with a few good quality inners, and merely petronising in tone.

The first joke was about "lavish" prizes on offer — most of them seem to come from the lav. A selection of charts numbers accompanied by an overkill of jockey pratfalls, a tedious duologue of Brian Auger and surely the best isn't really for A. Mole (controversial?) and a skit on first-year university students designed to irritate anyone who has even thought about going there. So then my own consumer test had broken down, as the only potential listener hereabouts had turned over to Radio 1.

A relief to contemplate the civilised manner in which Peter Kennedy and various big-wigs (or, perhaps, ex-big-

wigs) have discussed The Quality of Cabinet Government (Radio 3, Thursdays). The series has come up with some interesting perceptions on what the country is run, and some entertaining political gossip.

Lord Wilson told us about Atlee's ban on smoking in Cabinet (for reasons of dollar shortage, not health — being forty years back) and Ernest Bevin and others nipping off to the Gents for a quick fag. From that moment, Wilson reckoned, the Cabinet started to disintegrate. When he became Prime Minister, he announced "Smoking is not compulsory" and lit up.

Peter Shore, asked about the diary-keepers, defended Crossman's philosophical commitment to describe and analyse the processes of government, but was less keen on Mrs Cassin's vision of the world seen through "those two burning blue eyes, often very, very narrow, but often intense."

Lord Home answered in the darling of the Tory Party faithful, bemoaned how little time he had to get anything done and offered his own tiny little shafts of malice, explaining how Macmillan loved summit conferences — "he liked the general social thing" — though Lord Home thought that they were inefficient. Indeed His Lordship likened everything brisk and businesslike, from the flow of paper (one of his favourite enemies) to Cabinet speeches.

LIKE all true musical individualists Roger Woodward makes no compromises. He takes no easy options. He'll go for spirit over accuracy every time. He'll take big risks. And it, occasionally, the sheer volatility and theatricality of his temperament come between him and the composer, if occasionally the imagination simply outreaches the know-how (and goodness knows that's formidable enough), at least he is certain to have something challenging to say.

Take last week's account of the Grieg Piano Concerto — his return to the London concert platform after far too long an absence. The familiar opening declamation rang out, as one might have expected, with all due rhetoric and more, but it was his full-blooded assault on the ensuing low A that really started the adrenalin flowing. With that one note Woodward had positively demanded that we listen afresh. And we did. If there were problems here, they arose from his insistence upon searching for more than this piece can actually yield.

Elsewhere, though, there could be no doubting the excitement of his impetuosity, his highly strung musical personality. Tutis arrived in frenzied assaults of octaves, the climatic moment in the cadenza, where restatement of the principal subject is answered by thunderous flourishes in the lowest octave of the instrument, was as thrilling as I've ever heard it. This wasn't just another Grieg, but a wholehearted attempt to completely revitalise. It was also a welcome infusion of musical energy in an otherwise predictable and dreary evening. The RPO was conducted by Per Dreier.

The profound and highly personalised vision of Chopin gave altogether greater rein to the Woodward intellect and imagination at the Wigmore, some days later. Theatrically laid out with two intervals to separate them, here was a rare opportunity to hear in tandem all three Sonatas: to hear why So-

Edward Seckerson welcomes Roger Woodward back to the concert platform at the Barbican and Wigmore Hall

Thunder of renewal

The opening bars of the first movement cadenza were so mysteriously characterised as to emerge from shadows like late Beethoven. They somehow didn't belong. Then there were the traces of neuroticism in the phrasing — little nervous ticks in the rubato that struck me as out of keeping with the psyche of both piece and composer. How delicately, for instance, Woodward touched in those crystalline arabesques at the start of the slow movement, only to nudge them aside — too brutally, to my mind — in the following stringendo.

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nata No. 1 in C minor has remained very much an "also ran" beside its masterly companions.

Woodward was anyway not at his best here, grasping it seemed to me the technique to put paid to just a few too many wrong notes. So it continued in a singularly accident-prone first movement to the B flat minor Sonata.

No, the rewards began to flow later in a positively galvanic account of the scherzo and a Funeral March remarkable for the hypnotic, evenly-voiced placing of the middle section. By the time we arrived at, in my view, the greatest of the three sonatas, the B minor, Woodward was arguing more convincingly that his fingers were doing all that was required of them in the veiled shifting harmonies of the slow movement and the accumulative energy of that bounding finale. Four encores — Debussy and Prokofiev — focused him in. But at last, Prokofiev's suggestion: Diabologue — a good deal more than suggestion in this instance — was wild and wonderful.

mobile marvellously played by Irwin Shaw, invited to open the evening with a tone from the singer. In the nine-part cycle, Fassbaender began to expand, landing strongly on her chest register for dramatic effect, characterising severely the confessional in no 4, indulging an operatic extravagance of tone in no 2's Es treibt mich hin, making her voice positively anaemic for "krank und wund" in no 6, and reaching a gorgeous vocal vibrato in the final relaxation of "Liebeshauch".

The second half quickly rose to an astonishing climax with Berg's Four Songs, Op 2, especially Warm die Lufte with its violent thumps from the piano on Str 1. Fassbaender, a great Geschwitz in Lulu, had the ideal range of colour and drama, with thrilling accuracy on the angular turning phrase of "ich will singen." Some breathless running to a dangerous questioning on quiet on the word, "Die!" Then to Victor Hugo and French for four early Liszt settings, including the deliciously blasphemous Entan, a Petal, and a fugitive playfulness in Comment? disorienting, with exciting top notes before rounding up with five Strauss settings.

The familiar Morgen in its earlier guise was the still centre of the recital, very withdrawn and cool, not at all demonstrative and self-advertising. Zueignung, slow and with feeling, rubato brought a glorious final glow and bloom with "heißes Herz" to a memorable and devastatingly intense concert.

The poetry that Schumann and Berg chose may seem period in a way their music does not. Fassbaender's first half of Schumann's recital settings, including the Op 24 Liederkreis, was almost new to me, and given with a coolness and subtlety that never overloaded the occasional gemutlichkeit. The accompaniment of Mein Wagen rollet langsam, a rocking

YORK
Robin Thornber

Two Planks

IT'S good to see Anthony Minghella's play home to York, where it obviously belongs. It's set in the city in 1382 when Richard II spent some time there with Anne of Bohemia avoiding the plague and probably the politicians in London. York cherishes its colourful history like no other city in England, and thrives on bringing it vividly back to life.

Which is just what Two Planks and a Passion does. The play slices through medieval society, the languid courtiers seizing on imported novelties like sugar and golf, conspiring ineffectually, their Frenchified manners setting the style. But it's the bustling bourgeois, the rising merchant class who own the substance. They are the aristocracy and come to respect with displays of conspicuous wealth. And at the bottom of the heap the earthy laborers and apprentices get on with what has to be done.

And that, of course, is the staging of the Corpus Christi mystery plays. While the Master of the Painters Guild is in a hurry, upgrading their contributions to the pageant by hiring a troupe of professional players from Hull to outdo the mayor and his merchants, the lower orders impress the royal visi-

tor with the homespun sincerity of their traditional amateur dramatics.

The accuracy of the historical detail doesn't seem to matter. Minghella takes outrageous liberties with anachronistic language and gets away with it because you somehow feel that on another level he's genuinely in sympathy with the spirit of hearty sun that animates the passion plays.

Nigel Bryant's production at York Theatre Royal catches this sense of raw, raucous, rough and ready creative energy. The play is big and brash, almost like pantomime, and that seems exactly right on this hugely chunky timber setting designed by Vikie le Saché.

PLYMOUTH

Allen Saddler

When We Are Married

IF YOU like plays to be well tailored Priestley's When We Are Married will give every satisfaction. The plot is cut out carefully in the first act, fitted in the second, and stitched up firmly in the third. This warm-hearted north country property is durable and has several equal parts giving all the actors a chance to shine.

The all-star cast at Plymouth work diligently to extract every ounce of fun in this quality production and, apart from a slight sag in the middle, it still fits a summer bill. Terry Parsons' red plush set gets the feel of a stolid Victorian England and director Roger Redfern orchestrates the story of how three respectable couples fell into sin, with a firm hand. There are some gentle swipes at Victorian morality, but Priestley regards his hypocrites with affection. The down-trodden husband, the mean-minded bore and the roving-eye husband are all exposed to ridicule but not too harshly.



Fassbaender: Wigmore

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Patrick Cargill staggers effectively as the bawky photographer, Jane Freeman uses her formidable presence to bully Brian Peck who haunts nicely, and Patsy Rowlands is suitably over the top as the barnard who tries to claim her spoils. All the characters verge on caricature but this production does

have an air of glee which transmits to the audience. A large cast of accomplished comedians play off each other unselfishly and win approval for what now seems to be very small change.

WIGMORE HALL
Tom Sutcliffe

Fassbaender

LOOK after the sense, and the sounds will look after themselves. Far too simplistic a guiding principle for Lieders, perhaps, but for such an interesting and reflective artist as Brigitte Fassbaender, whose Wigmore recital was not surprisingly sold out weeks ahead, that is clearly the approach.

Fassbaender, 46 this month and 24 years into her career, is a thrilling operatic mezzo-soprano. She does not work on charm, and the voice is not self-consciously beautiful, but she characterises superbly and has the widest emotional range. Above all her commitment is to the music and the feelings behind it.

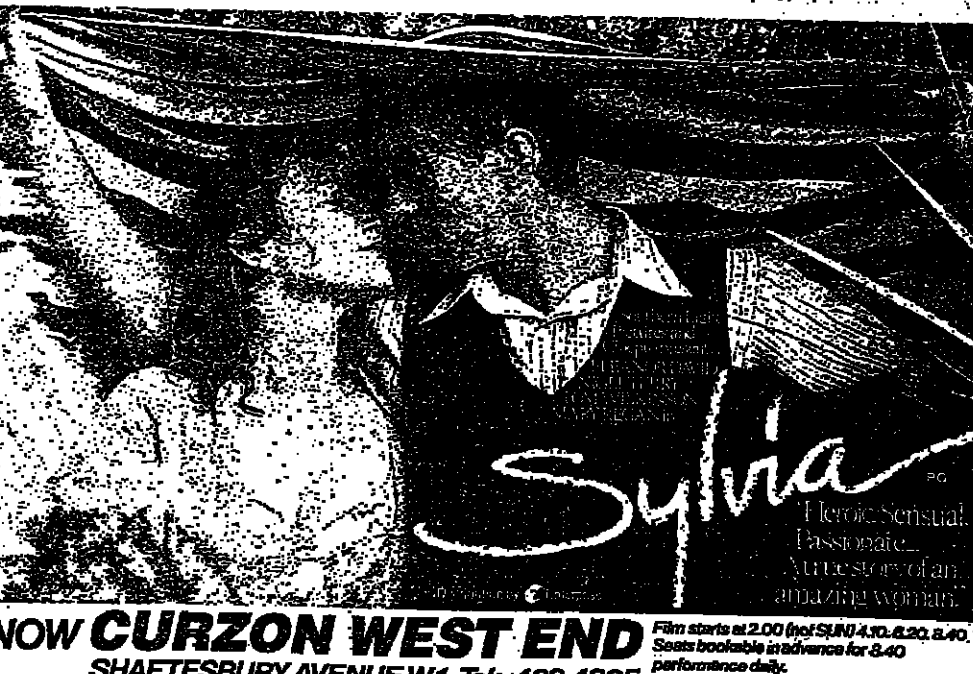
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Hugh Hebert reviews Arena and Pinter play

All that Shiraz

The Royal Ballet

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Josette Simon - directing

Michael Billington previews the Not The RSC festival

Stars change course

ENGLISH critics in the off-season, write George Jean Nathan, confess touching little essays on the Sussex Downs, the morning song of the larks in Surrey, the excellence of the French wines they found on their holiday trip to Paris and the beautiful barmaid they ran across in Cheltenham.

That was in 1940. But today there is no off-season. London theatre is a 52-week-a-year business with the summer months thanks to the tourist invasion the busiest time of all. And not on the heels of the London International Festival of Theatre comes a two-week summer festival at the Almeida. Billington called "Not The RSC."

Put together by members of the company (with Ian McDiarmid very much the driving force), it offers a kaleidoscope of performances, workshops, staged readings with familiar figures in unfamiliar roles: Kenneth Branagh as writer, Josette Simon, Frances Barber, Peter Postlethwaite as director. First seen in Newcastle, the season is supported by the management; but it is very much a tribute to the creative energy of the current Barbican troupe and an exercise of theatrical workers' control.

On paper, one of the most interesting segments is the London premiere of five plays to be performed with verities. These include: "Trilogy of Reunions" by Botho Straumann. Widely performed in West Germany, unknown in Britain except for the churlish, received Great Small with Glenda Jackson, this play, dating from 1976, is partly an attack on modern Germany "in which the ability of people to enjoy and to suffer appears to have shrivelled more and more."

Other premieres will be Arthur Miller's 1982 double-bill, "Two-Way Mirror" (two complementary plays which question the nature of the real) and Milan Kundera's "The Book of Laughter and Tears" by Simon Callow. Parel Kohout's "The Maple Tree Game," Jonathan Green's "Doom, Doom, Doom, Doom." It's an admirably international list. One wonders if the RSC directorate will be scouting for additions to their own English-focused repertoire.

The full-scale performances also yield some obvious attractions. David Rudkin in a major writer whom we rarely see on the British stage has a new play about Shakespeare, "Will's Way." Barnes's People (Peter Barnes monologues first heard on Radio 3) forms a double-bill with Robin Hooper's "Astonish Me" in which Anthony Sher plays Coteau, Edward Bond (Derek and After The Assassinations) and Sebastian Shaw "The Glass Maze and Take a Life" have their own double-bills. And Kenneth Branagh proves he is not just a kingly face with Tell Me Honestly, which he has written and directed.

In addition, there will be workshops (Stage Fighting, Hamlet, Directing New Plays) and two Sunday afternoon debates. One is on Theatre and the Bomb; perhaps it will ask why the theatre has yet to produce an unequivocally first-rate play on this most urgent of all subjects. The other is called "Whose Theatre?" and will investigate where the power should lie.

This festival itself suggests it lies in no one area and that one attempt to establish the frequency of the actor, writer or director is misplaced. But it also indicates there is a lot of untapped energy bubbling away beyond the reach of the RSC production line; and that actors and stage-management are perfectly capable of getting their own, as well as the company's, show on the road.

Not the RSC is at the Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, W1, from July 30 to August 11.

Java ready to erupt

Richard Alston talks to Alastair Macaulay about his new work for Ballet Rambert

"I REALLY resent the kind of ballet that thrills the audience and bores the dancers," Richard Alston, resident choreographer of Ballet Rambert, is talking of a dance company's expected quota of "entertaining" works — and of his own work Java. This, which receives Webster's premiere tonight, is to some by the thirties and forties harmony group The Inkspots. "Java" could be seen to fit into the populist mode. But it's not just a romp.

He talks here with the precision of restrained passion. Ballet Rambert, unlike many of Britain's traditional ballet companies, depends not on established classics and old chestnuts but on novelty, on a constant stream of new works. This is his third new work for the company this year.

Java is only partly new. In 1982 Alston made Java Jive for the slightly smaller dance company, Second Stride. Six women in male attire danced during the 1983 London season of New York City Ballet. I discovered that the previous night's performance of Balanchine's Symphony in Three Movements had kept him awake with excitement until dawn.

And this observation and admiration feed his choreography. In the old Java Jive — impish, confident, tongue-in-cheek — an in-joke for aficionados was to play "Spot the quotation." Several steps were specific references to works by Petipa, Ashton, Balanchine, Tudor, as well as to his own. Has he kept this up in the new Java? "Yes, and some of the new quotations are naughtier."

Alston is remarkable in the amount of attention and study he gives to works of other choreographers. He has written and spoken of the reasons for which he admires the work of Merce Cunningham and Frederick Ashton, and will converse at length about a wide range of choreographers ancient and modern. Talking during the 1983 London season of New York City Ballet, I discovered that the previous night's performance of Balanchine's Symphony in Three Movements had kept him awake with excitement until dawn.

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"But Java has more variety now, it's more elaborate. It's more dense in organisation and more virtuosic. The group dances are quite complex — on purpose. To interest myself as a choreographer, and so that they're quite tricky and demanding for the dancers."

Frederick Ashton has said that he likes to make each new ballet completely different from the last, by that means keeping himself fresh. Does Alston try for this?

His first two works for the Rambert this year have been the short narrative Mythologies to a score by Nigel Osborne and the tense, brilliant, plotless Dangerous Liaisons (which had its successful London premiere on Monday) to taped electronic music by Simon Waters. Now

with Java it's the vignettes of wit and sentiment to The Inkspots.

"I begin with the music. That dictates the style. Yes, I generally like to go to a quite different piece of music each time. That's my starting-point. I absorb myself in the music."

The pieces are about the people who are in them. That's my second starting-point. I try to bring out what I like about them — what I admire in them, and what's peculiar to them. I don't work so well with dancers I don't know. I like to see what dancers need in the context of their repertoire. With Voices and Light Footsteps last year there were even situations within the company that I used, though not necessarily on the same people.

"Some companies just naturally belong to the British acting tradition. The dancers at Rambert and Second Stride, like the Royal, are instinctive actors. At London Contemporary Dance Theatre, they're not. Their instincts are to do with types of movement, and they're very skilled at them. Not that the dancers at Rambert's substitute acting for dancing. In plotless works they're marvellous at bringing out the dance values, the shape of phrases."

He has been with Rambert since 1980. Has he developed?

"I've learnt a lot. I decided to stick with Rambert, rather than concentrate on work with smaller groups, in order to be able to see my work over a long series of performances. That's why I find Dangerous Liaisons pleasing to watch right now. It shows me how

my working relationship with these dancers has deepened. Two of the dancers in it were in Rainbow Ripples when that was new in 1980, and I can see that through teaching and experience the kind of material I'm using on them has developed. The dancers have come to understand much more and my work's become more secure."

He speaks with admiration of several of the dancers he is using in Java, both newcomers and experienced members of the company. "The tour of Poland has pulled them all together. They're looking very good now. And it's interesting to see what they bring out in a piece. In some passages of Java they really make the situations quite sad. And then, the piece has its twists. Boy meets girl only after a lot of trouble."

UNUSUAL operas are standard fare for the Opera Theatre of St Louis. Since the theatre of Webster University in a wealthy, leafy suburb, has some of the social ethos, and atmosphere of Glyndebourne, like marquee and picnic, its progressive artistic policy is surprising. But Opera Theatre has no competition from a traditional grand opera company elsewhere in town, and its audience is well-trained and receptive.

Puppetmaster — John Brandstetter as Yacuke in Minori Miki's Java

Tom Sutcliffe finds the Opera Theatre of St Louis full of surprises

Rossini with magnifying force

its tale flatly told. It was almost bereft of any original musical ideas, and so was dreadfully dispiriting to listen to.

Even its occasional forays towards folk numbers were not answered confidently with material that could suit the context, but perhaps Paulus doesn't know the English folk material of Hardy's time any more than he knows the Wessex landscape or in particular the New Forest where the story has its origins. What we had was a futile exercise in generalised narrative music.

The most promising singing came from Cory Miller as Marty South. Mark Thomson



as Fitzpiers the Doctor, and James McGuire as Giles Winterbourne. Colin Graham's staging tried to provide some of the authentic English country feeling that the score lacked, but without hope of saving the day. Richard Buckley conducted energetically, competently, but you can't put character into anonymous music.

Miki's idiom may not be very adventurous either; and like other Japanese musicians who have gone partly western, he sometimes makes one feel that he's only just woken up to the joys of diatonic harmony. But Joruri is never in danger of seeming humdrum or falling in its taut



and lyrical intent because Miki has forged an individual language from his combination of traditional Japanese music and a between-the-wars anglo-saxon idiom (with a touch of Britten and Vaughan Williams).

Joruri is more original and coherent than his earlier Actor's Revenge, though sometimes one is disconcerted to hear echoes of Puccini's Japaniserie recycled — as if in the Butterfly or Pacific Overtures were the real Japan.

The name in Japanese belonged to a medieval princess whose isolate-like story of love and death is the prototype of the entire genre of puppet-theatre named after her. It also means paradise. Colin Graham's production had an entirely Japanese simplicity and dignity, concentrating on the doomed love story at the centre, with his blind story-teller in a puppet theatre, his young wife and the young assistant who falls in love with her.

The work finds and holds an extraordinary mesmeric pace, and convincingly realises (without at all outstaying its welcome) that sense of doomed fatalism that is as much present in Wagner as in Japanese culture.

The ensemble acting in this alien style from the American east was absolutely invol-

seem an extension of the Japanese musicians, rather than leaving the Japanese music as merely exotic.

The Barber of Seville staged by Sarah Ventura was like every Barber you have ever seen, with sunny Spanish walls and Beaumarchais period costumes. The problem was that the singing, though promising enough, never quite became distinguished.

Mark Du Bois, the young Canadian Almatruva, has a clean and pleasing light tenor and gurgled away through all the highly decorative passages with much skill. But at the final performance of the season, conducted not by Leonard Slatkin but Joseph Rescigno, he ran out of tone some way short of the end. Robert Orr's Figaro was all too willing, almost smug in his confidence and nonchalance, but sang in a throaty style that suggested vocal troubles in the future.

A lack of the right kind of stylish musical preparation also affected Idomeneo, where, as often in America, the female singers are afflicted with far too much sense of decorum, so that they strive to seem sweet and wholesome and well turned out, like all good all-American girls, instead of finding the heroic energy and attack that are really required. The conductor, John Nelson, didn't seem to have much idea about what's special in this Mozart opera, in his mediocre approach.

Michael Myers as Idomeneo was simply too young and inexperienced for a very demanding role. The most promising voice was Hans Gregory Ashbaker's as the High Priest of Neptune.

BRIEFING

THEATRE

MORE foreign theatre from LIFT at sundry venues. Spain's Els Comediantes offer The Devils in Battersea Park (for free) on Sunday and Ale in "cosmic fare" at Sadler's Wells from Tuesday. Poland's Teatr Nowy also bring us The End of Europe at the Lyric Hammersmith from Wednesday. And another festival, Not The RSC, also gets under way at the Almeida on Tuesday. Elsewhere Alan Ayckbourn's A Chorus of Disapproval, featuring Michael Gough and Gemma Craven, opens at the Olivier; Vanessa Redgrave and Jonathan Pryce star in a re-cast version of Charles Sturridge's production of The Seagull at the Queen's; Donald Sinden heads the Chichester production of The Scarlet Pimpernel directed by Nicholas Hytner and adapted by Beverley Cross. The Devil Rides Out — A Bit, horror-spoof directed by Jude Kelly, bows at the Lyric Studio; Anthony's Ring Suspense of the Moon is at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park.

Recommended

The Mysteries (Lyceum): Last week of Bill Bryden's epoch-making production.

Kern Gees To Hollywood (Donmar Warehouse): Immaculate tribute to Jerome.

Michael Billington

OPERA

Teseo (Covent Garden, Sunday) the last Handelian novelty of this anniversary year, promoted under the auspices of Line Leland's English Bach Festival and given "in the baroque style," which means that the singers sport feathered head-dresses, silken cloaks and embryonic armour. Jean-Claude Malgoire conducts. Tom Hawkes produces, designs are by Terence Emery and the cast includes Elizabeth Vaughan, Marilyn Hill Smith, Penelope Walker and Robin Martin Oliver.

Idomeneo (Glyndebourne tomorrow, Monday, Thursday, tomorrow week) Elizabeth Connell joins the cast as Electra, in a competent revival of the Trevor Nunn Japaniserie staging. Philip Langridge is impressive in

the title role. Simon Rattle conducts. Last chance. La Bague Fidele (Buxton, tomorrow, Wednesday, next Friday). John Dexter's staging of the Goldoni adaptation of Samuel Richardson's hit novel, Pamela, Music, conducted by Anthony Rose, by Piccinni. Also coming into the Festival rep: Il Filosofo di Campagna by Galuppi, staged by Malcolm Fraser, another Goldoni opera (Buxton Thursday, tomorrow week). Casts include Mark Holland, Rita Cullis, Gordon Sandison.

DANCE

WAYNE Eagling's first work for The Royal Ballet has its premiere tonight and then shows twice tomorrow and next Tuesday, sharing a bill with Birthday Offering and Enigma Variations. Now called Frankenstein, The Modern Prometheus, it is set to a commissioned score by Vangelis with costumes by the Emmanuels.

Jennifer Jackson's new ballet Half The House is being given again next Monday, Wednesday and Thursday on a triple bill with La Bayadere and either Enigma Variations (Monday) or Birthday Offering. Industrial action has prevented the return of Varril Capricci to the repertoire.

MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet should return next Friday when an additional matinee brings the number of Romeo to end the season to four instead of three. Check castings and programmes on 01-240 9815.

Ballet Rambert in the Big Top in Battersea Park has a programme change tonight (until Tuesday) and will give Pierrot Lunatic, Robert North's Light and Shade and Alston's Java. Next Wednesday brings the final programme in the Big Top: Voices and Light Footsteps, Sergeant Early's Dream and Entre dos Aguas.

London Festival Ballet finish at the Coliseum tonight and tomorrow with three Romeo and Juliets and open at Royal Festival Hall on Monday for a week of Coppelia. There will be attendant jollities on the South Bank (until August 17) in collaboration with the G.C.

Mary Clarke

ROCK

THE ALFRESCO season continues this weekend with two hardy annuals. Highlighting

the Cambridge Folk Festival (Cherry Hinton Hall grounds tonight, Saturday, Sunday) are the American troubadours Tom Rush and the immensely witty Loudon Wainwright III; then from Ireland and England respectively, the thoughtful songsmiths Chrissy Moore and John Martyn; and, in rowdier vein, Irish traditionalists The Chieftains and Anglo-Irish poets of love life, The Pogues, currently one of Britain's best groups of any description.

Meanwhile, in St. Germans, Cornwall (tonight Saturday and Sunday) the apocalyptic thuggish Killing Joke and the booming New Model Army headline Elephant 6, though jump-jazz revivalists The Chevalier Brothers, a wealth of cabaret, other support acts and the neo-hippy audience itself will, one hopes, mirror the halcyon season.

Finally, summer wouldn't be summer without Kid Creole and the Coconuts delving into their cabin trunk of movie memories and rum-and-coke show tunes. They play St. Austell Coliseum (tonight), Bristol Colston Hall (tomorrow), Birmingham Odéon (Monday), Manchester Apollo (Tuesday), and the Edinburgh Playhouse (Wednesday).

Matt Snow

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Christopher Driver introduces the five finalists, Colin Spencer reports on their professionalism at the stove, and Aileen Hall reviews a tricky balancing act with some distinctive wines

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.1 billion to 1.2 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.5 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.5 billion by the year 2015.

FRIDAY AGENDA

Five years that show there is an alternative

DAVID OWEN, SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, WILLIAM RODGERS

EXACTLY five years ago, in an Open Letter to the Guardian, we urged fellow members of the Labour Party to rally to the fight in an attempt to save a sliding to further electoral defeat. We warned that if Labour failed the nation, a reform might arise to save Britain from cruel and divisive Tory policies.

Those most in a position to halt and reverse Labour's self-destructive drive did not heed our warning. Within six months of our Guardian letter, we joined with Roy Jenkins to issue the Limehouse Declaration, establish the Council for Social Democracy, and launch the Social Democratic Party.

The instant success of our new party surprised us all. It was as if a coiled spring had at last been released. A new political group had found a voice. A recent membership survey shows that 65 per cent of SDP members had never previously committed themselves to any political party. Of the rest, 22 per cent came from Labour and 8 per cent from the Conservatives. Furthermore, these members now take a very active part in politics. Each of the three parties has a commitment to the party's constitution, on the election of the party's leader. And each vote is of equal value; no one can cast a vote other than his or her own. The SDP is a party that belongs to its members. We practise today what we preached five years ago.

The partnership between the SDP and the Liberal Party is also a new concept in British politics. The fact that two parties can work together and together prepare a programme for government is a welcome relief to electors sick and tired of the bitter wrangling both between and within the two old class-based parties. It is now clear that the emergence of the SDP/Liberal Alliance has transformed politics in Britain.

In our 1980 Open Letter, we said that the inflexible monetarist doctrines of Mrs Thatcher's Government were "driving unemployment to intolerable levels and laying waste large areas of the economy". Five years later the British economy is in even worse plight than we then foresaw, with the loss of a quarter of its manufacturing base, the first ever recorded deficit on trade in manufactured goods, and more than one in eight of our fellow-citizens unemployed at a time of severe and worsening skill shortages.

Economically, the Government has presided over a disaster, and this despite a boom from North Sea oil. Yet the response of the Labour Opposition has been so weak, and its policies so incoherent and unconvincing, that the Conservative Government increased its parliamentary strength in 1983, while Labour's share of the poll fell even further. The 1983 result was the worst for the Labour Party for 60 years. The newly formed Alliance gained only 2.2 per cent less of the popular vote than Labour.

Two years after the general election, with the successful by-elections at Portsmouth South and Brecon and Radnor behind us, a bleak and gloomy picture of local government, no-one can deny that there will be a three-horse race at the next election. Despite some improvement in Labour's position in the public opinion polls, it is the Alliance that offers the serious challenge to Mrs Thatcher's misguided policies, and proposes a sustained attack on the mounting economic and social problems of our country.

For Labour is still beset by its old weaknesses. The

undemocratic role of the activists within the Labour Party that we diagnosed as its fatal flaw five years ago remains. It is fashionable to argue, particularly amongst those who failed to fight when we challenged them to do so, that all is now changed. But that is to ignore the dramatic shift in the centre of gravity of the Labour Party. The challenge over re-election has been resolved not so much by dismissal as by early retirement.

The true way to establish where Labour stands in the political spectrum is to examine its policies. In most respects our analysis of five years ago hardly needs amendment. We wrote then of Labour's ambivalence on the mixed economy, its half-hearted approach to internationalism, and its shallow commitment to representative democracy. We see no signs of any change of heart.

In our Open Letter we called on the Labour Party to remain firmly committed to parliamentary democracy, "defeating the class war, accepting the mixed economy, and the need to manage it efficiently, and attaching importance to the ideals of freedom, equality, and social justice." Five years on, the Labour Party's commitment to these principles remains at best uncertain, at worst divided. Where is the commitment to parliamentary democracy when an MP can be forced out of office, or elected councillors be instructed how to vote by a tiny caucus of political activists? Why has the Labour Party set its face against one member, one vote for selecting candidates and adopting policy? Above all, how can the Labour leadership accept without objection the flagrant disregard of ordinary trade unionists' rights in the new NUM rules which give Mr Scargill and his executive virtually absolute power?

Both the rejection of class war and the efficient functioning of our economy are essential to Britain's industrial and technological future. Our competitors, in Japan, the United States and the rest of Europe, are creating new forms of industrial relationships which embody the idea of partnership and accept new technology. While our competitors advance, we fight expensive and destructive battles like the year-long miners' strike. In the poorest parts of Great Britain, confrontation between extremist Labour local councils and the Conservative Government has become a way of life; nothing is less likely to attract new businesses and new jobs.

The SDP opposes privatisation when embarked upon by Mrs Thatcher for doctrinaire reasons and in order to bolster the Treasury with massive profits from the sale of public assets. But we are far from satisfied with the performance of the public sector and believe that the question of ownership should be decided on merit with a minimum of necessary changes. Governments should enable industry to compete effectively without constant interference. A genuine partnership between government and industry and within industry itself will give stability and a sense of direction.

But Labour remains the party of central economic planning and control, committed to nationalisation, public ownership, unable to escape from the shadow of Clause IV of its constitution. It is obsessed by the fight of capital against labour, and the role of profits as the basis for investment.

Even the genuine desire to do something about unemployment is undermined by Labour's ambiguity about an in-

comes policy. Without some kind of restraint, reduction of the economy could simply increase the incomes of those already in work rather than creating additional jobs. Yet powerful trade union leaders have indicated their opposition to any form of incomes policy, and they would exercise an effective veto over a future Labour government's actions.

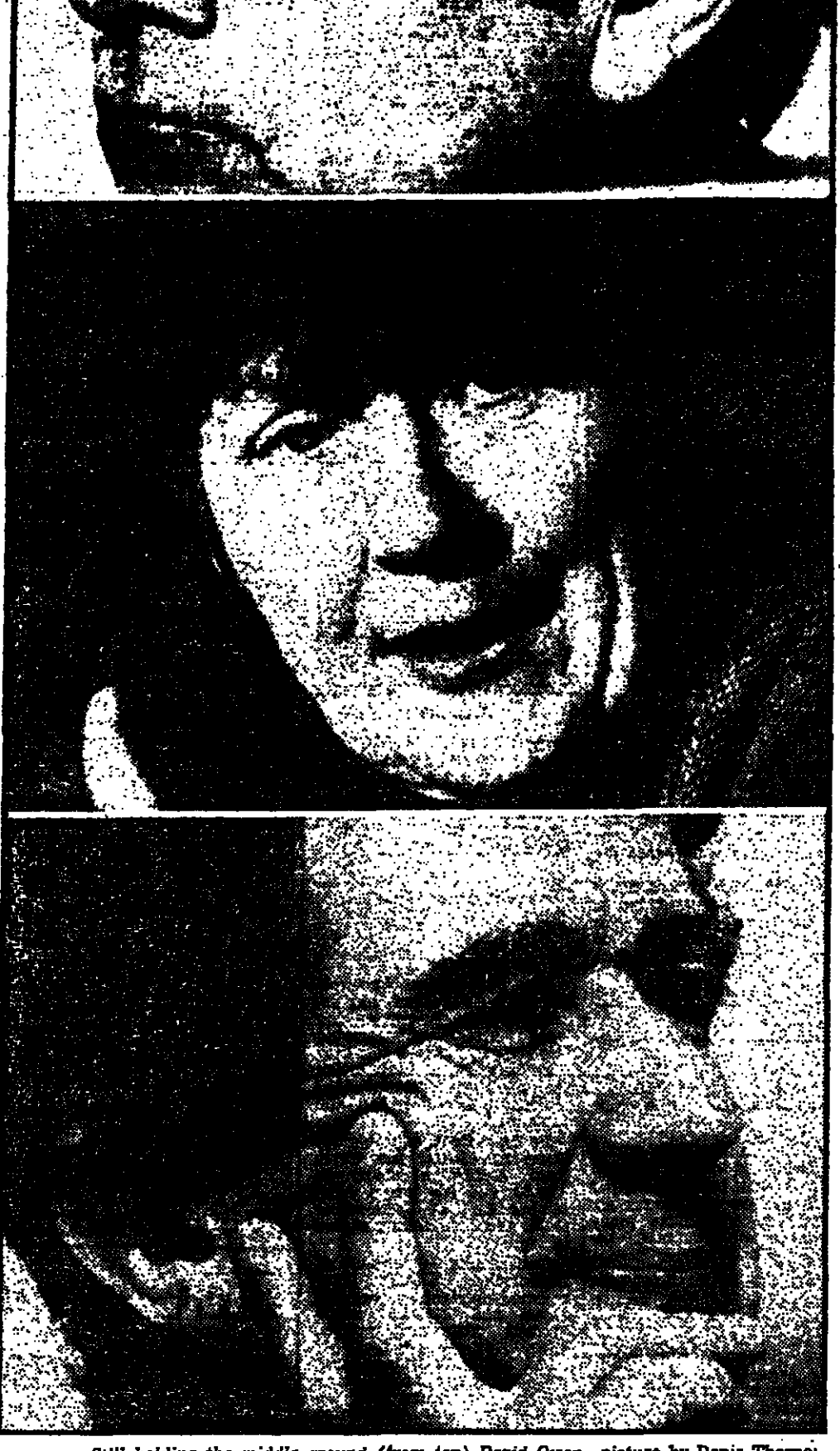
A mixed economy in which the public and the private sector each does what it does best, is essential to Britain's economic recovery. Social Democrats will fight for the National Health Service as a public service. We want to see a flexible, modern, non-bureaucratic education and training system, where credits are granted and recognised for all kinds of academic and vocational achievements. Such a system is blocked both by Government intransigence and by trade union objections to training based on standards rather than on time served. We have said loud and clear that these services must be strengthened and expanded, even if that means that cuts in the standard rate of tax are not possible at the present time.

There are regions in Britain that have been so badly hit by the recession that public investment is essential to establish a basis for recovery. Private investment, as the failure of the Government's Inner City Enterprise project, will not go to depressed and rundown areas until the local environment has been improved.

What about the principles of "equality and social justice" to which we referred in our 1980 Open Letter. The test of equality and social justice is what is done for the new "underclass" in our society, who are truly underprivileged and poor. Defending the existing system does little for them. Cutting the benefits they do get, as the Social Security Review implies, will make them even more wretched. Establishing the tax and social security systems as the SDP suggests to ensure an adequate level of basic benefit for all those unable to earn a reasonable income constitutes much more radical commitment to social justice than the Labour position. Freedom, like social justice, is by no means secure in Britain today. The excessive striking miners and the willingness of Labour councils to break the law are examples of threats to freedom.

The politicisation of the Civil Service and of public appointments throughout society, the ready use of outdated laws against those who divulge official information, Government secrecy and refusal to consult or inform Parliament and the public on matters that affect them — these are all evidence of autocracy and intolerance at the highest levels of Government. The freedom of the individual now urgently needs to be underpinned by law. Yet Alliance initiatives to the European Convention on Human Rights, into British law, and to press for freedom of information legislation, receive no encouragement from the official leadership of either the Labour or Conservative parties.

The European Court has now become the foremost guardian of British liberties, insisting on data protection, control on our telephone tapping, and on standards for prisoners and the mentally ill, and much more. In the economic and technological sphere, the European Community alone offers a market large enough to launch new products and create the new industries of the future. We cannot do it on our own. Nor can we hope to influence the international political process, whether it con-



Still holding the middle ground (from top) David Owen—picture by Denis Thorpe; Shirley Williams—picture by Don McPhee; William Rodgers—picture by Gerry Weiser

cerns disarmament or a campaign against famine and debt in the Third World, when five years ago, we wrote about internationalism and referred to the Brandt report and to the European Community, it was becoming clear even then that hostile attitudes to aid in Washington and London were likely to add to misery and hardship in the developing world.

Debt repayments since then have risen to the point where they are swamping sensible and necessary development in many Third World countries. In Africa, famine has added death to despair and debilitation. The SDP remains wholly committed to Britain achieving the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for development aid within the lifetime of a Parliament and to trading policies consistent with worldwide economic growth.

We would use Britain's international financial influence to ease the problems of adjustment for developing countries and to help resolve the debt problem. An Alliance government would carry influence abroad for, unlike Labour, we accept the need to work within an international framework to resist

protectionism and to co-operate with other nations. The Labour Party undoubtedly shares our concern about the developing world but its internal and external economic policies and the pursuit of a siege economy bolstered by selective import controls would vitiate any good intentions.

On defence, Labour shares our belief that the Trident programme is too expensive and should be scrapped. But, hopelessly fraught as ever, Labour's pretence that Trident savings will solve all the problems of our conventional defences is matched by its other commitment to cut conventional defence spending to the average level of our European allies.

This is a certain recipe for making a nuclear response to attack more likely. Labour now endorses the SDP's advocacy of a battlefield nuclear weapon-free zone, but its obsession with one-sided disarmament has left the SDP and the Alliance as the sole advocates of a dual-key or safety with on cruise missiles in this country as an additional safeguard against a decision to use them by the American President alone.

The SDP would not abandon Britain's existing nuclear weapons without reference to our allies and regard for the part they might play in the prospects for a stronger European role in Nato, or to the role they could play, when placed on the negotiating table in achieving deep cuts in US and Soviet nuclear armaments. In its opposition to President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, which threatens to usher in a new and even more perilous escalation of the arms race, the SDP is listened to precisely because of its staunch commitment to Nato.

The defence policy of the Labour Party has moved relentlessly from unilateralism to semi-neutrality. Not even Michael Foot at the last election urged the removal from airfields and ports in the United Kingdom of United States forces that have anything to do with Nato's nuclear deterrent strategy. Such a policy, devastating to the cohesion and strength of Nato, shows no understanding of the consequences of their defence policy for their socialist allies in Germany, Belgium, Holland and Italy who live much closer to the east-west frontier.

None of the socialist parties in these countries has denounced Nato's strategy or sunk to the depths of inconsistency and ignorance that are Labour's hallmarks.

The character of Labour's predicament is highlighted by its relationship with the trade unions. Labour depends for 80 per cent of its income on affiliation from the trade unions. Even now, the trade unions are raising a multi-million pound Election fund for the Labour Party.

We believe that it is bad for the country and bad for Britain — that any party should rely so heavily on financial backing from narrow interest groups as Labour does, or as the Tories do in respect of support from business and the City. That is why the public funding of political parties makes so much sense; and why we believe that the unions should be free to contract into the Labour Party if they wish, instead of being forced to contract out of a contribution automatically expected of them.

Britain needs strong and independent trade unions, sensitive to the wishes of their members, looking after their conditions of employment and playing a responsible part in the affairs of the state. The SDP makes its view on this abundantly clear with continued support for trade unionism at the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham. But a responsible political party, and above all one that aspires to govern, must be able to consider the best interests of our country as a whole. The Labour Party remains hopelessly compromised by the nature of its dependence on the trade unions. It takes away the independence of judgment and the freedom to manoeuvre that any government must have if it hopes to repair the damage that Mrs Thatcher will leave behind.

To us the verdict is plain: the Labour Party is gravely flawed but just capable of redemption five years ago, is fatally flawed today. The task of providing an alternative to cruel and divisive Tory policies has fallen to the SDP/Liberal Alliance. Those we addressed in our Open Letter have a new party of conscience and reform to which to turn. They can find common ground with many former Conservative voters who reject Mrs Thatcher but could never support a left-wing Labour Party committed to unilateralism and tied to the trade unions.

On unemployment, health, education, pensions, housing and poverty, the values we seek to represent in the SDP spring from those that inspired the great social reforms of the twentieth century. Now, at the approach of the twenty-first, we want to give renewed significance to the Welfare State, maintaining, improving and when necessary altering it, the better to root out poverty, widen opportunities and end harmful class and social divisions in our country. The Alliance wants to see proportional representation, to elect members of the House of Commons and members of the European and Westminster Parliaments. We want a new constitutional relationship established with a legislative Assembly for Scotland, a Welsh Assembly, and through a reformed House of Lords with some members directly elected from the nations and regions of Britain, to set a framework for a far more decentralised pattern of government.

In local elections the SDP has used the slogan "Caring about people, caring about costs" and this has a wider application. Not all public expenditure is useful expenditure. Not all social problems are caused by more public expenditure and few can be remedied by more money alone. But essential public services must be maintained and improved.

Five years ago, Mrs Thatcher had been Prime Minister for little more than twelve months. She warned about her policies before their full measure had been widely understood. In the intervening years she has sought to persuade the voters that a feasible alternative to her policies, no other way to solve the nation's problems. When the main opposition to her came from the Labour Party, this sometimes appeared a credible claim. With the formation of the SDP and the rise of the Alliance, she now faces an altogether more formidable challenge.

POINTS OF ORDER

PICTURE the scene in the Commons chamber in the early hours of Wednesday morning, following the division on top people's pay. The four tellers emerge from behind the Speaker's chair and begin to sort themselves into a line in front of the mace. A vast bell shakes the rafters as the packed benches realise that it is the senior Opposition whip who is at the right of the line, indicating that the Government has lost.

The four men compose themselves, take a pace forward and bow to the Chair. Suddenly the hubbub ceases as the senior whip raises a sheet of paper and reads out the figures. The noise is resumed at an even higher level when the full extent of the government's humiliation is confirmed. Mr Roy Hattersley, standing in for Neil Kinnock, leaps to the despatch box to demand a statement of intent from the Prime Minister.

Slowly, angrily, Mrs Thatcher fumbles in her handbag for a single sheet of paper and rises to her feet. By now the cries of "resign" threaten to shatter the noise to assist, then announces that Wednesday afternoon's business is to be cancelled on a motion of confidence in her government coupled with an endorsement of the top salaries Order.

A pure fantasy, I fear. But it could have been reality if only Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition had been a little more loyal to its constitutional duty. Mrs Thatcher did indeed defeat, but I am sure you, she really did have that fateful piece of paper in her handbag, just in case.

SO IT has not been a good week for either set of whips. For Mr Michael Cocks, Labour's retiring chief whip, it is an unhappy note on which to end his 12 year career. Nor is it likely to help Mr Norman Hogg, the present deputy, in his bid to succeed him. As for Mr John Wakeham, the newly married government chief whip, he may well be wishing he had taken an early homecoming.

To be sure, he and his colleagues are enjoying a successful damage limitation exercise late on Tuesday night. Their success in concealing their real weakness from Messrs Cocks and Hogg may well be a relief. But the whips are also meant to be an early warning system of approaching trouble, and in that duty they failed to get their message across.

At least two senior ministers were complaining on Wednesday night that the whole thing was a suggestion which approved the Top Salaries award. Much of the discussion concentrated on the possibility of postponing the whole thing—a suggestion which Mr Wakeham dismissed as impractical. Instead, Mrs Thatcher told them why it had to be done, and it even did. Which is, of course, exactly what everyone says is wrong with her style of Government.

WHY DID so many Tory MPs eventually decide to rebel? The basic reason, of course, was the knowledge that their constituents would see the award as blatantly unfair. But there was also a strong feeling that all that stuff about the need to pay astronomical increases in order to maintain the quality of recruits was basically nonsense.

I can personally testify that at least two judges were amazed at the scale of the awards. But I have also received evidence from the opposite end of the scale. An informant in the Ministry of Defence tells me that, though there is no shortage of generals, admirals, air marshals and top civil servants in that noble building, there is a shortage of simple clerks, typists and secretaries.

To be exact, there are 40 vacancies for secretaries in the main building alone, and even more for clerical officers. The gross salary for the former is £7,542, and for the latter £6,500. Their boss, Permanent Secretary Sir Clive Whitmore, is to get an increase of £15,000 a year, or around twice as much as a secretary's total pay.

As my informant says: "To put it bluntly, there are too many chiefs and not enough Indians."

SIR William Clark, the ultra-loyalist chairman of the Tory backbench finance committee, was affronted when Mr Hattersley told him in the chamber that he would cheerfully support the Government's new pay policy. First-Born Bill, Tory rebel Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark was sympathetic on the terrace later. "Damn cheek," he told Sir William, "You'd only support it if it was the second-born."

Ian Aitken

How propping up the Bar doesn't help the public



OUT OF COURT

David Pannick

TOMORROW the annual general meeting of the Bar will take place. Unlike most such meetings, it will be attended by a large number of barristers. It will concentrate on matters of great importance to the profession, and it will lead to radical changes in the way barristers present their own case to the public. However, these changes will do nothing to advance the public interest in securing effective legal services for all.

At present the Bar is led by a self-perpetuating group of very successful QCs who earn six figure salaries from commercial law. Junior barristers, who constitute the overwhelming proportion of the Bar's membership, have a limited voice in the conduct of the Bar's affairs.

This has led to deep discontent amongst less successful barristers at the limited improvements in rates of pay for legal aid work, and in methods of requiring solicitors to pay fees expeditiously. For people who make a living out of presenting other people's cases in as attractive a light as possible, barristers have a poor record in respect of their own public relations. The inability of the leadership of the Bar to hook a hall large enough for the numbers who turned up to the AGM on July 10, causing the meeting to be postponed until tomorrow, speaks volumes about the Bar Council's understanding of barristers' concerns.

Disaffection with the ruling regime has prompted a campaign led by Anthony Scriven QC (himself one of the most successful QCs at the Bar) to propose reforms to the status quo. This group wants the Chairman of the Bar to be elected by postal ballot amongst all barristers rather than, as at present, for the Chairman to emerge (like the Pope or like the leader of the Conservative Party after 1965) after soundings are taken. A more aggressive professional body is being demanded, one that will campaign harder for the interests of barristers. Scriven and his supporters have already swept the board in this year's elections to the Bar Committee.

Only at the Bar could a proposal to make the leader accountable to the membership be resisted as a radical idea damaging to the profession. The combusting argument presented by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

of the Bar — that the members of the profession cannot be trusted to make an informed choice on who should lead them — is an insult to barristers. The existing arrangement is similar to that advanced in opposition to the Reform Act of 1832. It will have no greater success tomorrow.

The sad aspect of the debate within the Bar is that both sides wrongly see the interests of barristers as co-extensive with the public interest. Barristers, whether from the establishment or from the opposition, resist any suggestion that solicitors should be allowed a right of audience in higher courts and access to senior judicial posts, or that clients should be allowed direct access to barristers and should be offered effective methods of complaining about the ser-

vice they have received. The disagreement at the AGM is not about these important matters of principle, but about whether the ruling group has done enough to promote the Bar's interests in such respects.

The Bar insists on preserving its indefensible restrictive practices in an age of competition. When challenged, it asserts that a healthy Bar is in the public interest, never pausing to consider why restrictive practices should be necessary to preserve what is allegedly, so manifestly excellent.

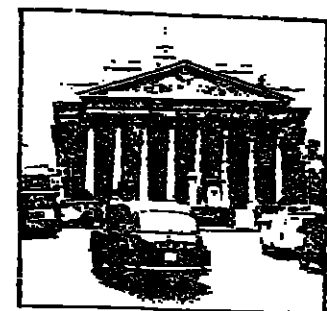
The Annual Statement of the Bar for 1984-5 indicates with clarity what is wrong with the profession. It solemnly declares (no doubt after extensive discussion and deliberation) that "it is inappropriate for chambers to use compliment slips on

which the names of all members of chambers are printed." However, "there is no objection to chambers in forming regular solicitor clients that a facsimile transmission machine has been installed." The ridiculous preoccupation with outmoded and irrelevant rules of "professional conduct" and a disregard for the true interests of the public constitute the least endearing characteristics of the Bar.

Whoever leads the Bar after tomorrow, the public will continue to echo the words of a Trollope character: "I never believe anything that a lawyer says. I know he'll say whatever he thinks most likely to forward his own views."

David Pannick is a barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

The market reckons that if ICI gets hurt the others will be damaged too



NOTEBOOK

Hamish McRae

THE MARKET was nervous anyway, but ICI sent a chill blast across the floor. Share prices are now at their lowest this year. Will the mood continue gloom?

You have to start with ICI

itself. ICI is not a typical British company, in that it is more affected by the things the market is worrying about than most. One is currencies. Put at its simplest, ICI makes much of its money selling basic chemicals in the European market: if sterling rises against the German mark, it makes it harder for the company to generate decent margins.

Another worry is the general level of demand. If the CBI is half right in its new reserved attitude towards the growth of demand, ICI gets hit harder than most. Run a chemical plant full tilt and it makes a lot of money; run it well below capacity and it does not.

Yet another is interest rates. The Chancellor says he expects a further fall, but the fact remains that even on quite optimistic assumptions about UK rates, they

will still remain higher than those of most industrial countries through the autumn.

For ICI none of this spells utter disaster. This great British company, paradoxically, has saved itself (and its chairman should take a bow for this) by becoming less British. It is, increasingly, a diversified international company, the art of increasingly learning the art of squeezing larger profits out of its products where it can do so, thanks either to product quality or market dominance.

But it is precisely because the financial markets have come to appreciate these qualities, that they were disappointed yesterday. If a company which is perceived to have transformed its management can only stand still in profits, for the half year, what about the others?

Indeed it is worse than that, for ICI was ahead in profits in the first quarter; in the second quarter it was

down. And sterling has risen further, since the accounting period ended.

Currency and interest rates affect different companies in different ways: we tend to think of the mass of British industry as homogeneous, but it isn't. Cash-rich companies actually benefit from high interest rates; any company where a dollar-denominated raw material is a significant cost will be very relaxed about the fall in the dollar this year; for retailers, current demand matters far more than currency fluctuations; and so on.

Given all this, had the ICI standstill come in isolation it probably would not have mattered. But since it comes on top of a lacklustre string of results, plus all the mayhem in the electronics sector, it is upsetting. It appears to confirm more general fears.

Looking ahead, there will be some help from falling

interest rates. It seems reasonable to expect base rates around 10 per cent come November. There will be some help, perhaps, from a rerating of the D mark as an investment currency.

You can still postulate that the dollar has a long way to fall, and yet see sterling fairly stable in weighted terms, with the rise of the pound against the dollar offset by a fall against the mark.

The authorities really do not want sterling to rise much more on the weighted basis if they can possibly help it. But they haven't yet found a way to affect the DM/dollar rate.

Besides, any help from falling UK interest rates will have to be set against the fall-off of demand in the US, as the economy there slows. That ought to be the primary worry of true markets, for it would not just be the ICI's of this world that would be hurt by such an outcome.

Oil gamble

OF COURSE, as far as sterling is concerned, the other big influence is Opec. Yesterday's events are perhaps about the middle of the expected range, they could have broken up in complete disarray, but equally they could have been much more realistic and discussed production quotas as well as prices.

Indeed, the meeting was interesting as much for what was not said as for what was at the very beginning of the meeting they decided not to talk about quotas. Once you make that decision, all the talk of price adjustments is really dithering.

Four countries in particular are pressing for quota increases: Qatar, Gabon, Ecuador and Iraq. The first three are relatively small producers, but Iraq does present a considerable problem, for it wants at least a

further 500,000 barrels a day on top of its present 1.5 million barrels a day production at the moment.

In fact in private discussions one oil major has already told Saudi Arabia that it must find ways of cutting its price further. Saudi Arabia, along with Venezuela, is the most sophisticated of the whole Opec membership.

In the months ahead two things need to happen. One is that Saudi Arabia is going to have to find the most subtle methods possible of shaving its price in such a way as no one will notice. The other is that demand will have to nudge up again, if even the present Opec price structure is to survive.

So essentially Opec has taken a gamble. By ignoring the most difficult issue of production quotas—and by trimming and twisting the present price structure rather than adjusting it in any fundamental way, it is relying on something coming up. Like demand for oil.

Best hope

FINALLY a word about the Abbey National mortgage cut. Like Opec, building societies are driven by the laws of supply and demand, even if in this instance, unlike Opec, Abbey National is abolishing differentials.

No, the similarity is that at present interest rates the building societies are beginning to have difficulty in shifting the mortgages. They are starting to meet market resistance to high interest rates, the housing market's equivalent to energy conservation, if you will.

In terms of its monetary impact this is an encouraging sign, for it shows that high interest rates are starting to have the effect they ought, in economic theory, to have. It has taken a while for it to happen, but it is the best hope that those 10 per cent base rates, come the autumn.

Minimal price drop crucial to oil power game

Opec outcome represents setback for Saudis

From John Hooper in Geneva

One of OPEC's most fiercely contested conferences ended yesterday with a significant victory for the radical camp and a galling but perhaps temporary setback for the Saudis. The outcome has not only shifted the balance of advantage within OPEC, but could eventually have important consequences for the war between Iran and Iraq.

Adjustments to the official pricing structure were minimal. By a majority of 10 to three, with Algeria, Iran and Libya dissenting, the ministers voted for reductions of 50 cents for Arabian heavy crude and its equivalents and of 20 cents for Arabian medium and its equivalents. It represents a falling in the average price of OPEC's output of only 14 cents, or less than half a per cent.

It is the insignificance of the drop in crude prices which is crucial to the power game within OPEC and the Near East. Saudi Arabia, which has

been compensating for over-production by other members, is producing only about half of what is allowed under OPEC's quotas.

On Wednesday night, after the ministers had voted by a majority in favour of the changes with Saudi Arabia abstaining, the Kingdom's oil minister demanded a larger share. He was thwarted by the Iranian minister's threat to abandon the conference unless Saudi Arabia fell into line with the majority.

The radicals, who see Saudi Arabia as a client of the US, have long argued that the Kingdom's quota is far too high for its population, and they are determined to ensure that its production is kept down. Iran has a particular incentive because 150,000 barrels a day of Saudi production goes to Iraq in the form of a long-term loan and as the Kingdom's economy goes from bad to worse the pressure to be rather less generous to their neighbours will increase.

Saudi Arabia has several options, although only the first is

free of drawbacks. That would be to reduce the pricing issue when ministers next meet in the autumn—probably, OPEC sources said, on October 3. As he left Geneva, the United Arab Emirates representative, Doctor Mans Saeed Ouliba, said the gap in price between the various sorts of crude could be an issue then, although OPEC's chairman, Doctor Subroto of Indonesia, had earlier told journalists it would not.

A second choice would be to start illicit reduction of price. There have been persistent rumours among the traders in the lobby here that the Saudis are preparing a subtle form of discounting. If it became public, it would ruin the Kingdom's hitherto unimpeachable standing.

The third choice would be to try to secure all or most of the increased demand for OPEC's crude which is expected as winter approaches. But that depends on other members' keeping to their quotas. How much progress was made is not clear.



Alan Bond

Higher offer for brewer

By Mary Brasier

The Australian businessman, Mr Alan Bond, has increased the pressure on the larger group, Castlemaine Toobies, to agree a takeover from his Bond Corporation by unveiling a record \$250 million new offer for the company.

In less than a week Mr Bond has lifted his terms from \$87.10 a share to \$87.50, and his target from 50 per cent of Castlemaine to all the outstanding shares in issue.

Castlemaine—brewer of Castlemaine XXXX lager rejected outright the original terms and remains unimpressed with the revised offer. Any hopes that Mr Bond has of winning board support were dashed as a public row broke out between the two companies. Bond Corporation claimed that Castlemaine's managing director, Mr Lloyd Zampetti, had said a full bid at a higher price might be regarded more favourably. Mr Zampetti said a price had never been mentioned.

One of these is the Allied-Lyons group which holds a 24 per cent shareholding obtained at \$86.10 a share earlier this year.

The link between the two companies has led to Castlemaine XXXX being marketed in the UK by Allied (as well as being promoted by the touring Australian cricket team).

Allied is sitting firmly on the fence in the bid battle. The company has refused to comment on how it will vote its key shareholding which compares to Bond's own stake of 17 per cent.

The Australian Trade Practices Commission is showing no sign of wanting to become involved at this stage either despite the fact that if the bid succeeds Bond will control about 40 per cent of the Australian beer market.

Sotheby's cuts jobs

By Donald Wintersgill, Arts Sales Correspondent

SOOTHEBY'S is to cut back its business in North America. It is sacking 51 people, mostly administrative, and will turn away the less valuable objects offered to it for auction.

At the same time, the president of Sotheby's North American company, James Lally, is leaving to "pursue his own interests."

Sotheby's has always found the control of costs difficult. It ran into difficulties in the early 1980s making losses, and cut its staff from 2,000 to about 1,400. Shortly after this pruning the company was bought in 1983, by American multi-millionaire, Alfred Taubman, and his associates.

Sotheby's said yesterday that its sales for the season now ending were \$90.7 million worldwide. This was a rise over the previous season of 25.3 per cent in sterling terms and of 17.1 per cent in dollar terms.

Christie's sales world-wide, also announced yesterday, were £337.5 million, and increase of 1.1 per cent.

City and unions agree on industry loans

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

Business and trade union leaders have identified principles for a new lending institution, and have come to an agreement on the structure of a partly state-owned bank which could plug the gap.

The industrial and union representatives, who have produced their report for the National Economic Development Council, reached no conclusion on whether the government should actually set up a new institution, or rise instead confining their debate to the need for, and shape of, a new credit institution.

But the assistant general secretary of the TUC, Mr David Les, one of the delegates who produced the NEDC report, said yesterday: "For the first time, the City and the trade unions have agreed on how a new investment bank could channel long-term funds into building up British industry."

Even the present government will not create the new institution. It is now clear that a national investment bank will be one of the top priorities of a Labour government.

The bank, the NEDC committee on finance for industry suggests, would lend both to the private sector for long-term high risk projects in particular, and would also provide loans for large scale projects, most notably for infrastructure

developments, in both the private and public sectors.

The proposed institution is not as radical as the National Investment Bank which Labour will establish if it returns to power, but there are material similarities between the two concepts of a new lending institution.

Both identify areas of industrial investment which cannot presently obtain funding on an acceptable basis. Both believe that some projects merit loans on a preferential basis, both in terms of long redemption dates, and lower interest fees.

The NEDC's theoretical bank, unlike Labour's however, would only be partly state-controlled and would involve private sector participation and ownership. Banks and other financial institutions, it is suggested, would own most of the bank with the government holding a probable 39 per cent stake.

Government guarantees would be necessary to enable the bank to lend cheaply, and for long periods, to suitable projects, although the bulk of the bank's funding resources would be raised from the private sector through issues of different forms of loan stock, House of Finance coupon or "deep discount" bonds.

The necessary initial funding would be between £50 and £100 million at the very least, the committee has agreed, which would give the bank a loan-to-asset ratio of between £1.25 billion and £2.5 billion.

EEC agrees to end steel industry aid

From Derek Brown in Brussels

State aids to the heavily subsidised European steel industry are to be phased out over the next three and a half years.

Community industry ministers endorsed a Commission plan to ban operating subsidies from the end of this year.

Other aids, production quotas, and price controls, will be dismantled by the end of 1988. Yesterday's broad agreement is likely to be followed by fierce argument in the autumn. Ministers will then be competing for national shares of production quotas, in the last few years of the strict control regime.

They will also have to define continuing aids for environmental improvement, research, and most controversially, closure of redundant plants. The Community industry has shed 32 million tonnes of capacity since 1942, and 350,000 jobs since 1974. But the Commission says it still has 20 million tonnes of surplus capacity, about 14 per cent of the current total.

Most steel producing countries try to retain closure aids to pay for redundancies and site clearance. The Commission too is prepared to put Community money into social and regional aids in badly affected areas.

But Germany, with a relatively efficient industry believes such aids will become a hidden production subsidy. And, Britain wants them restricted to small undertakings moving completely out of the steel business.

Last night the ministers briefly discussed the latest looming steel export dispute with the United States which some observers believe could flare into a full scale trade war.

The US wants drastic curbs on EEC exports in 17 categories.

Last year they were running at a record 655,000 tonnes. The Community has agreed to cut back but has indignantly rejected Washington's demand for a 25 per cent reduction on 1984 levels. Next week the US is expected to announce unilateral action to which the Community will certainly retaliate.

Imperial in new sale talks

By Mary Brasier

Imperial Group is making a second attempt to sell its troubled Howard Johnson motel chain to the US hotels group, Marriott Corporation.

Talks between the two groups have re-started after breaking down last month when Marriott pulled out. But Imps was quick to play down any hopes that the long running HoJo sale saga might finally reach a successful conclusion.

Imps may be talking but it remained publicly determined

yesterday that it had not even decided whether to sell HoJo, which lost it \$8.6 million in the first half of the year.

News of the reopened discussions came not from Imps but from Marriott, who as Imps slightly tartly pointed out, felt obliged to make a statement to the New York stock exchange.

Marriott has returned to the fray in partnership with Prime Motor Inns, which is believed to be interested in taking the motor lodges, leaving Marriott with the restaurant chain.

Imps shares rose 3p to 169p.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inquiry on lira

THE Public Prosecutor's office in Milan has opened an investigation into the causes of the sudden collapse of the lira on the foreign exchanges last Friday, legal sources said yesterday.

The investigation would try to establish whether there were any irregularities on the market leading up to the crash.

At the official fixing on Friday the lira temporarily lost nearly a fifth of its value against the US dollar, dropping to 2,200 lire in 1940 the day before. It was quoted yesterday at around 1,912 lire, just four per cent below Thursday's level.

THE full Takeover Panel yesterday upheld its executive's ruling that Debenhams' talks with a number of shop-in-shop concessionaires—including Burton's Dorothy Perkins chain—did not breach the panel's code of conduct.

Shares in Debenhams yesterday eased 2p to 312p ahead of today's formal rejection to Burton's latest bid of 570 million. House of Fraser now holds 12.7 per cent. Habitat Motocare bought another 500,000 shares in Burton to help support the price, but Burton's shares dipped another 8p to 435p.

COMPANIES should give their most expert engineers the same pay and status as top managers, a government committee suggested yesterday. The final report of the 14-month Butcher inquiry into Britain's shortage of high skills also emphasised the need for firms to encourage switches from technological jobs into marketing or manufacturing and back again. Details, page 19.

THE government's British Technology Group disposed of its shareholdings in 17 companies over the past 15 months and cut its holdings in eight, all of them investments inherited from the old National Enterprise Board. The result was a pre-tax profit of £52 million. BTG's other arm—the National Research Development Corporation—made a pre-tax profit of £7.7 million, compared with £3.3 million. The main reason was increased royalties from insecticide inventions.

BRITISH Telecom yesterday announced a deal with the US State Department for a direct satellite service, via rooftop aerials, between the Department and the US Embassy in London. The deal is one of several direct transatlantic satellite links negotiated by BT, including services for Texas Instruments, the Finance Trust, and the American Express.

FINANCIER Sir James Goldsmith is taking over as chairman of the Crown Zellerbach Corporation under an agreement reached yesterday with the CZ directors, Goldsmith's Generali, an Austrian company, which holds over 50 per cent of the CZ shares, has put forward revised restructuring plans for the group.

THE offers by Mr Asil Nadir's Polly Peck for full control of Cornhill Holdings and Inter City Investment Group have been declared unconditional after receiving acceptances respectively from 90.5 per cent and 71.4 per cent of the shares not already owned.

Full status for Scots TSB

By Jean Stead

TSB (Scotland) declared yesterday that the ownership of the bank had now been firmly established. The Quotation Bill to privatise the bank finished its final stages in the House of Lords on Wednesday night and it is now waiting the Royal Assent. The bank broke the silence it maintained while legislation was going through parliament and held a press conference to announce the future plans for the bank in Edinburgh yesterday.

Mr Richard Ellis, chairman, said they had been trying to take on competitors with their hands behind their backs, but the legislation which gave them full banking status, now removed that problem.

Ownership has been the subject of dispute. Over 13,000 signatures, mostly of TSB clients, were sent to Scottish National Party headquarters in Edinburgh as part of a "save the Scottish TSB" campaign, and a court action was brought unsuccessfully by a depositor, with the backing of the SNP,

Caparo to sue over Fidelity

By Margaretta Paganano, City Correspondent

Caparo Industries is suing two former directors of Fidelity, the television to radio group, the Fidelity's auditors, Touche Ross, over alleged overstatement of profits and stock values. It is seeking damages in excess of £10 million.

The writs, which were served yesterday, allege fraud and misrepresentation against Mr Steven Dickman, and his brother, Mr Robert Dickman, in respect of Fidelity's accounts for the year to March 31, 1984. The accounts showed profits of £1.3 million.

Touche Ross, who are still Fidelity's auditors, are being sued for negligence for auditing the accounts that year. Touche Ross said yesterday the firm plans to vigorously defend itself against the allegations.

Caparo, the engineering group, built up and headed by Mr Swraj Paul, claims that profits were overstated by £1.7 million and stock values were substantially overstated.

The overstatement in the accounts, claims Mr Paul, would have changed the published results from the £1.3 million profit to a £400,000 loss. Caparo said that £1.3 million, at a time over Fidelity and has since written off £7.9 million following its review of the group's finances.

It alleges that some stock included in the accounts did not exist.

Mr Paul added yesterday: "I am confident that Fidelity remains a fundamentally sound business with good long-term prospects. We now require recovery of a substantial proportion of the purchase price to accord with the company's true value at the time of purchase."

No heir apparent

By Mary Brasier

The prospect of a first loss from STC when it reports figures in two weeks time is accelerating efforts in the City to find a replacement for chairman Sir Kenneth Corfield.

Fuelled by investor disquiet at STC's stock forecast of poor results only a few months after a £168 million cash call, a few City advisers are using their contacts to come up with an alternative to Sir Kenneth.

STC said yesterday that they knew no one in the City for a new chairman or chief executive. No-one has yet been appointed and it is not clear how far advanced the "head hunt" is. Sir Kenneth is 61 and only six months away from the company's nominal retirement age of 62. However he could opt to carry on for a further three years. STC added yesterday that the question of a successor had not so far arisen.

It was to be expected that there would be further repercussions for Sir Kenneth from STC's results. According to stockbrokers Henry Cooke Lamden, a foreign currency dealing firm, the group's £278 million wiping out trading profits from ICL. It is not clear where responsibility for many investors have nonetheless laid blame for the first half downturn at Sir Kenneth's door.

support from the company's Lord Brothers. In the House of Lords debate on Wednesday Lord Bruce-Gardyne, Economic Secretary to the Treasury between 1981 and 1983, said that he was well aware that there were conflicting views about the legal ownership of the TSB. He said that he was advised that the judgment of the Treasury's legal counsel, there were no basis of that advice that he supervised the approach to legislation.

ICI first half year 1985

The Board of Directors of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC announce the following unaudited trading results of the Group for the first half of 1985, with comparative figures for 1984.

ICI Group financial highlights			
<i>*Group means ICI and its subsidiaries. £m means millions of pounds sterling</i>			
1984			1985
<i>First Half</i>	<i>Year*</i>		<i>First Half</i>
<i>£m</i>	<i>£m</i>		<i>£m</i>
		Turnover (Sales to customers outside the Group)	
1,182	2,346	Chemicals - UK	1,240
3,105	6,474	- Overseas	3,874
518	1,089	Oil	468
4,805	9,909	Total turnover	5,582
532	1,034	Profit before taxation	535
315	605	Net profit attributable to parent company, before extraordinary items	319
51.4p	98.2p	Earnings (before extraordinary items) per £1 Ordinary Stock	50.7p
12.0p	30.0p	Dividends (net) per £1 Ordinary Stock	13.0p

*Abridged results: full accounts with an unaudited audit report have been lodged with the Registrar of Companies.

Trading results for the first nine months of 1985 will be announced on Thursday 24th October 1985.



Imperial Chemical Industries PLC

July 1985

Universities told to dismantle barriers

A GOVERNMENT report yesterday demanded greater multi-disciplinary emphasis in higher education to meet the needs of the 90s.

The Butcher committee, set up 14 months ago to tackle the shortage of computer-skilled people, said its final report that universities and polytechnics should break down departmental barriers to provide more multi-disciplinary courses.

The report also recognised that job structures now are "in a state of constant evolution" and that the continuing deepening between "industry wanting precisely trained people immediately able to undertake productive work, and on the other hand, a supply of broadly educated men and women capable of adapting over the years to a succession of changes which cannot be predicted in advance."

But the report failed to acknowledge that warnings of such coming post-industrial needs were available more than 20 years ago; that other nations, notably Japan and the United States, have already adapted to those warnings; and that analyses of Britain's current and coming shortages of skills in information technology (IT) were put to successive governments in the 70s.

The report provided other examples of the gap between rhetoric and reality. It singled out for praise some education and training schemes which are in the process of being scrapped, emasculated, or reduced by the Government itself, because they cost more than shallower training.

These are: the Microelectronics Education Programme in the schools, which is to be killed next March and replaced with a more traditional scheme, with funding cut from £5 million a year to £2.2 million; the Threshold and Itac schemes, which train unqualified school-leavers in IT and are now threatened with dilution in MSC reviews; and the Open University.

The report concluded with a series of general motherhood statements and with no suggestion of any coordinated government action to implement them.

Companies were told to define their skill needs; pay their top engineers as much as their top managers; set targets for staff taking courses in IT; work more closely with schools; tailor

Butcher sets the scene to meet the nineties



Architects of the 'new partnership' — John Butcher

their recruitment to aptitudes as well as paper qualifications; recognise the role of women in information technology; and set up training company partnerships with universities.

Professional institutions were told to define the IT skills needed by their members and to something about providing them. Schools were told to encourage a broader curriculum and find more mathematics and science teachers. Universities and polytechnics should "pursue the development of IT across a wide range of courses and revise courses to reflect current trends and the multi-disciplinary requirements of employers." And all should collaborate in setting up a national database of IT training programmes.

The report identified two main outcomes of the committee's work:

The formation of an IT Skills Agency through the CBI Education Foundation to implement "the new partnership" between industry and education; and the allocation last March of £43 million to provide about 4,000 extra places in higher education for engineering and technology over the next three years.

The report said the emphasis now needed to be on the skills needs of the users of IT in industry and commerce

as well as of the IT supplier companies. The increasing importance of modern techniques of manufacturing engineering needed greater recognition.

Introducing the report yesterday, Mr John Butcher, junior Industry Minister and the committee's chairman, said the Government had recognised, across all departments, that the skills of the workforce, at all levels, formed the key to the nation's economic performance.

Equally, there was an increasing awareness on the part of employers, the education system, and the industrial community at large, that the skills shortages could not be ignored.

The committee's work and the so-called Shift in higher education towards science and technology have raised fears that attempts are being made not just to raise the output of graduates to meet specific need in areas such as microelectronic engineering and computer science — there's little dispute about that need — but to weaken true education merely in order to provide skills that industry itself should be providing for its recruits.

Mr Butcher, in presenting an earlier report from his committee, half-acknowledged that danger by admitting that British industry was not ready for the sort of harsh tax penalties imposed by some countries on companies that do not invest in training and retraining.

Yesterday, Mr Peter Brooke, junior Education Minister, a member of the committee, answered "the alarm bells created in the humanities world" by The Shift. He pointed out that so far there had only been a 4 per cent swing and the room for further shift would be only about 0.5 per cent a year.

He agreed that Japan and the United States were well ahead of us in the race to produce the graduate-filled populations needed to create wealth in the future, and this was "very worrying." But he pointed out that university education in Japan was substantially provided by the private sector. In terms of the proportion of GNP spent on education, Britain was not out of line. Also, about a third of British school-leavers with two A-levels opted not to go on to higher education.

Peter Large

Why profit is blind to apartheid

David Simpson investigates the strong British connection in South Africa

THE imposition of full trading sanctions by the UK would be more damaging to the South African economy than were similar measures to be introduced by any other nation.

Only one other nation even begins to approach the magnitude of Britain's financial involvement in South Africa and that is the US, but not even the weight of the American dollar supports the Botha regime as much as the UK pound.

Britain's commitment to South Africa takes three identifiable forms: trade, direct investment and indirect investment.

On the trade level, it is not surprising that Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe is so resolute in his insistence that Britain will not break off economic relations with South Africa.

In the mid-1970s, the UK slipped briefly into a trade deficit but has now firmly established a surplus which rose to a record level of £500 million last year, with exports of visible goods exceeding £1.2 billion.

South Africa is Britain's twelfth largest trading partner and two per cent of all UK exports head for the Cape. The UK is even more vital to South Africa as a purchaser of that nation's goods, in particular its raw materials.

Each UK citizen consumes £24 of South African goods each year, equal to almost £10, twice as great a per capita consumption as any other nation. Britain is followed by West Germany and Japan.

This year, Britain's trade relationship with South Africa has followed the recent trend, with exports reaching over £446 million in the first five months of 1985.

It is noticeable that many of the products exported in bulk to South Africa have both a high added value, and are thus essential to the UK economy, and have a high strategic value, and are thus

essential to the South African economy.

Almost half the products exported consist of machinery, ranging from plant to data processing equipment, and from motor vehicles to power generating machinery. Chemicals and petroleum-related products are another area of trading significance, as are scientific and controlling instruments. On the con-

and last year, the value of UK re-exports to South Africa is put at £350 million by the UKSATA.

Trade is only one minor area of Britain's profiteering from South Africa. More immediately, British industry is up to its armpits in directly backing the South African economy, taking advantage of apartheid through subsidiaries and joint enterprises in

each have investments of about £800 million, little more than a tenth of the British involvement.

All told, 7 per cent of the UK's total overseas investment has been lodged in South Africa where 400 groups quoted on the UK Stock Exchange own one or more subsidiaries. In fact, of the 2,000 overseas owned companies in South Africa,

the American investment level.

With US banks now imposing a freeze on South African government lending, British banks are stepping into the gap to an increased degree, with banks such as Hambros, Hill Samuel, and Guinness Mahon, all with strong South African connections, having notably indicated their level of lending, and improved the terms of their lending, over the past year.

And the cash of British private investors, and investment institutions such as pension funds and unit trusts, is playing a central role, through the Johannesburg stock exchange, in financing local South African industry, particularly mining companies.

The volume of the British financial involvement in South Africa and the sheer scale of the UK's profit from this investment, leaves the observer unsurprised at the fact that the Government pays only lip service to its anti-apartheid stance, and refusing to impose the economic sanctions which could genuinely bring an end to apartheid.

The Government's real views were summarised in a speech given in Cape Town in March this year by Christopher Roberts, the chief executive of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Mr Roberts spoke warmly to an audience of local businessmen of the UK's traditional trading links with South Africa and of the importance of extending these and Britain's participation in South Africa's economy.

More than any other nation, the UK, through its importance as an export market and source of finance for South Africa, could bring economic pressure to bear to have apartheid swept away. But the profit motive continues to override social and human principles.

Direct investment by overseas nations in factories, plant and equipment in South Africa approaches £12 billion, and £5 billion of this, over 40 per cent of the total, is owned by British companies.

sumer front, beverages, which can largely be construed as Scotch whisky, comprise the largest single export group.

But the UK's profit from trading with South Africa is not confined to visible trade. Instead, it has an even greater surplus on its provision of insurance, shipping, banking and other financial services which fall into the invisible trade category.

The most accurate figures on these are compiled by the UK South Africa Trade Association which calculated that invisible exports peaked in 1983 at the top of the South African economic boom.

Then, the value of services exported was put at £1.78 billion, double the value of the visible goods exported at the time. Last year, the UKSATA estimates, the UK sold services worth £1.3 billion, still more than the value of manufactured goods.

There is a third and little reported strand of UK export surplus with South Africa. This consists of re-exports of raw materials first imported from South Africa and which have had value added during their sojourn in the UK.

In the main, these materi-

als are diamonds and gold,

Direct investment by overseas nations in factories, plant and equipment in South Africa approaches £12 billion, and £5 billion of this, over 40 per cent of the total, is owned by British companies.

The value of British direct investment in South Africa has fallen slightly over the past three years, with some companies, such as Associated British Foods, Prudential Insurance, Metal Box, and DRG taking advantage of exchange control relaxations to pull out of, or reduce the size of their investments in, South Africa.

But while the total worth of British industry's direct stake in South Africa may have declined, its proportionate contribution to the aggregate value of all overseas direct investment has not.

The country with the second largest stake is the US which accounts for just over 20 per cent of the total, the value of its holdings having fallen since the Congressional stance against American investment in the apartheid regime. Behind the US comes West Germany, which has about £1 billion invested, while France, which has, of course, now imposed sanctions, and Switzerland

over 50 per cent are controlled from the UK.

Among the largest are Plessey, the GEC subsidiary, Marconi, and the computer group ICL, all manufacturers of high-tech defence and communications-related products.

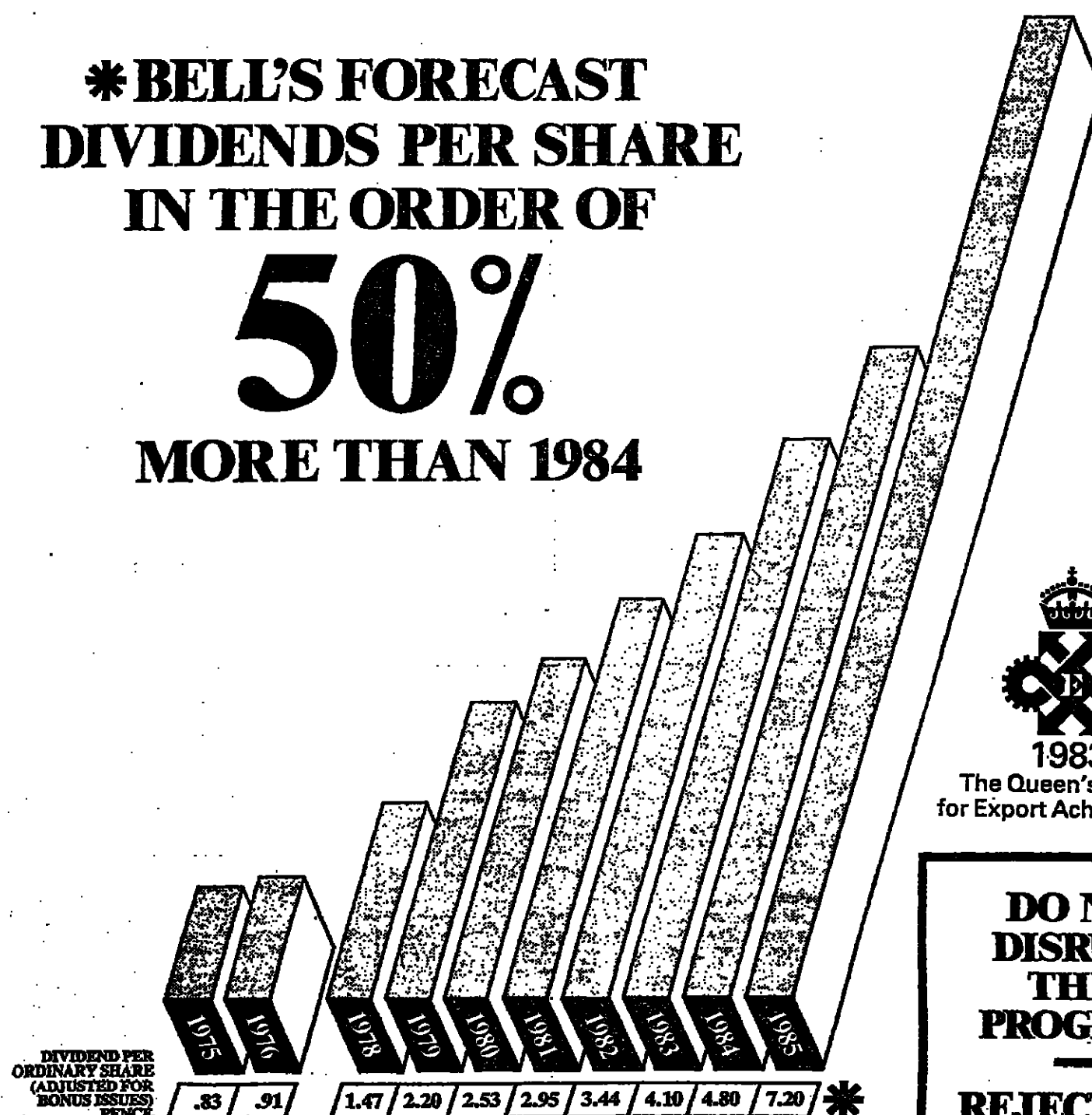
The most famous British involvement in South Africa, however, lies in the banking sector. There, two UK banks, Standard Chartered and Barclays, monopolise two thirds of all South Africa's domestic banking business, as well as acting to raise external funding for the Government. Barclays is also renowned for its strong presence in the illegally occupied Namibia, and for its role as banker to South Africa's armed forces.

But the value of Britain's investment in South African plant and machinery is topped by the cash it has pumped indirectly into the South African economy, either as bank loans or as shareholdings in South African companies.

The value of these loans and portfolio holdings currently top £6 billion, a sum equalled only by the value of the US indirect investment, and forecast soon to surpass

BELL'S DIVIDEND GROWTH CONTINUES

*BELL'S FORECAST
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE
IN THE ORDER OF
50%
MORE THAN 1984



Note: Years 1975 and 1976 are the twelve month periods to 31st December. Years 1978 onwards are the twelve months period to 30th June.

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for Export Achievement

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REJECT THE
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO ALL APPLICANTS FOR
ORDINARY SHARES IN

Tiphook plc

Although the Listing Particulars and the Prospectus advertised on 22nd July, 1985 correctly showed adjusted net tangible assets at 30th April, 1985 of £12.6 million, the document mistakenly attributed the whole of this figure to ordinary share capital. After the deduction of £3.5 million of preference share capital and the redemption premium payable thereon the adjusted net tangible assets attributable to Ordinary Shareholders at 30th April, 1985 amounted to £8.7 million. Accordingly the net tangible assets per Ordinary Share should have been shown on pages 3 and 16 as 62.5p and not 90.1p.

The Application List for the Offer for Sale which opened on 25th July, 1985 will now remain open until at least 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 30th July, 1985. Applicants who have submitted applications on or prior to 25th July, 1985 have been requested to and must, if they wish to receive an allotment, confirm their application by completing a form which was sent to them on Thursday, 25th July, 1985 and returning it by not later than 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 30th July, 1985 to the Royal Bank of Scotland plc, New Issues Department, 24 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BA.

It is expected that Letters of Acceptance will be posted on Friday, 2nd August, 1985 and that dealings will commence on Monday, 5th August, 1985.

A copy of this document, which constitutes a supplement to the Listing Particulars comprised in the above-mentioned Prospectus, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration.

Any enquiries with regard to the above arrangements should be addressed to the Royal Bank of Scotland plc, New Issues Department, 24 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BA (Telephone 01-623 4356).

COPIES OF THE OFFER FOR SALE (INCORPORATING LISTING PARTICULARS AND A SUPPLEMENT THERETO) CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FROM:

Tiphook plc
Chelsea House
26 Market Square
Bromley, Kent, BR1 1NA

L. Messel & Co.
PO Box 521
1 Fansbury Avenue
London EC2M 2OE

36 St. Andrew Square
Edinburgh EH2 2YB

36-38 Baldwin Street, Bristol BS1 1NR
and from the registered office of the Company,
St. Mary Axe House, 56-60 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BL

Barclays Merchant Bank Limited
15/16 Gracechurch Street
London EC3V 9BA

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
New Issues Department
24 Lombard Street
London EC3V 9BA

Barclays Merchant Bank Limited
York House
York Street
Manchester M2 3BB

and from the following branches of The Royal Bank of Scotland plc:
88 Buchanan Street
Glasgow G1 3BA
and from the following branches of Williams & Glyn's Bank plc:
49 Charing Cross
London SW1A 2DX
30 East Parade, Leeds LS1 5PS

Look what's happened at Britoil since the Government sold 51% of its shares.



In November 1982, Britoil became a publicly quoted company when the Government sold 51% of its shares to the public. Since then Britoil's achievements have been most impressive. Britoil is one of the country's leading oil and gas companies. And it's one of the world's largest companies engaged primarily in exploration and production. Since 1981, its profits after tax have virtually doubled.

Today, Britoil has the greatest share of exploration acreage of any company on the UK Continental Shelf.

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At the end of 1984, Britoil's worldwide reserves stood at 554,000,000 barrels of oil and 916 billion cubic feet of gas. Now the Government has decided to offer its remaining shares for sale.

And, as in the past, it intends to give private individuals, not just City institutions, a full opportunity to apply for shares.

Subject to market conditions the offer is planned for the end of this month.

There will be just seven days in which to make an application for shares before the offer closes early in August. They will also be available from all branches of Bank of Scotland. But you can ensure you receive as soon as they are available simply by filling in

the Offer for Sale document and application forms will be published in many national newspapers. National Westminster Bank, Barclays Bank and an application form and a copy of the Offer for Sale document this coupon.

Britoil has built up a first class team of exploration, project development and field operating staff led by experienced management.



Please send me more information about Britoil and reserve my copy of the Offer For Sale document, without obligation.

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Britoil

SOON, THE REMAINING 49% OF BRITTOIL SHARES ARE TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE.

Issued by Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited on behalf of H.M. Government.

FT index hits new low for year as ICI slumps

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Playing Reverse Monopoly with houses

Martin Pawley looks at the growth of the new equity economy

'The Government presides over something that looks like a classical 19th century economy'

THERE was a time when Britain was a trading nation. We solved the problem of survival after the great population explosion by exporting manufactured goods and buying food and raw materials from abroad. It was an arrangement that began with the captive markets of the Empire and continued into the post-war global trading economy.

As an economic strategy it worked for over 150 years, although as time passed and competition increased we got less and less good at it. We passed the point of no return in the first half of 1983, when we imported £1.2 billion of manufactured goods more than we exported — a £2 billion turnaround on the last six months of the preceding year. That was when historians will say we left our trading past behind and embarked on an economic journey into something else that nobody understands.

All we know about the new British economy is that, in some respects, it is more like the import-substitution economies of the Third World than the trading economies of West Germany or Japan. To a great extent it depends on the sale of North Sea oil, which will produce £12 billion in revenue in the current financial year and without which we might well be in the hands of the IMF again. But oil is not the engine of the new economy as far as the people of Britain are concerned, more appropriately it is merely its lubricant.

bricant: the thing that makes the new British economy go is owner-occupied housing. We have found a way not only to get rich from our own houses, but perhaps even to live off them entirely in the future. The coincidence of declining industry with rising personal incomes poured money into housing instead of machinery. As late as 1970, real net manufacturing investment was equal to building society lending at £1 billion a year; by 1978 it had slumped to £365 million while building society lending had more than doubled to £2.4 billion. Today it is considered a matter of pride that industrial investment has reached £2 billion a year — even though the building societies now commit that sum every month in loans to homeowners.

Today's Conservative government presides over something that looks like the classical British economy of the 19th century in all but the "bare subsistence" level of domestic consumption — and that despite the crushing political liabilities of massive unemployment, low investment and set-piece battles with the trades unions. This new creation is widely seen as a triumph of traditional — or monetarist — thinking: in fact it is nothing of the kind.

Without the entirely unplanned contribution of

purchasing power generated by the housing market Margaret Thatcher would have been sent packing by the electorate in 1983. What has saved her politically is the only revolutionary element in her otherwise reactionary programme: the boom in housing credit that is now as vital to the micro-economic scene of domestic politics as North Sea oil has been on the macro scale. This nation of homeowners has begun to play Monopoly in reverse.

Reverse Monopoly, or the use of equity to finance consumption, operates from the vast resource base of the market value of all the housing in the country. Unlike the traditional board game, in which players start out with money and end up with property, today's Reverse Monopoly players start out with property and try to turn it into cash. For reasons connected with location, tenure and state of repair, the precise value of all the property held by all the players cannot be accurately measured, but on an average-price basis homeowners' credit alone is unlikely to be less than £350 billion. This figure is so large that comparators are hard to come by.

From this immense resource base the new-style Monopoly player will begin to do consciously what he or she has done instinctively ever since they got a foot on the aptly named "ladder" of home ownership. That is to increase the share of annual consumption expenditure that is drawn from long-term housing credit, at the expense of the share drawn from earnings.

Just how feasible this process can be is easily demonstrated: it could even work for those who are already unemployed, provided all the other players game vigorously enough to force prices up and the DBSS continues to pay interest on mortgages held by the jobless. It already works in a small way for retired homeowners who, under the "home income plan" operated by some insurance companies, can convert their equity into an annuity payable to them for the rest of their lives.

An alternative means of calculating the household significance of the Reverse Monopoly economy is to derive figures from the assumption that at least 50 per cent of housing credit leaks away

into direct consumption. According to the 50 per cent formula, £5.5 billion was diverted in this way, which suggests that the 1,200,000 households who took out loans on houses in that year disposed of an average of £4,583 for direct consumption. Because housing credit increased from £11 billion in 1983 to £18 billion in 1984, the average equity income shared by the 1,370,000 borrowers last year must have risen to at least £8,500. In the present year, when all the indications are that £25 billion will be lent on housing, equity income for direct consumption could well top £8,000.

Ten-year projections on the 50 per cent rule suggest that Reverse Monopoly will make as great a contribution to consumption as social security payments by 1996. But even though the rate of lending is increasing at a speed that threatens inflationary consequences it is unlikely to consume the value of the basic housing asset unless it is politically restrained. The synergistic effects of inflation in the economy, house price increases, the sale of rental property, and the deliberate restriction of new construction by planning controls only strengthen the collateral value of housing.

Provided government support for the booming housing credit industry is maintained

at its present level there is no reason why borrowing against the security of houses should not sustain itself indefinitely, pushing up acquisition prices at the same speed as credit expands, and feeding the resultant inflation back into the cycle via higher interest rates and more rapidly rising house prices.

According to the BSA report, Housing Finance into the 1990s, published earlier this year, there will be a £100 billion mortgage market by the year 2000. This projection is based on an average house price of over £100,000 and an average purchase loan of £60,000. The report makes scant acknowledgment of the phenomenon of Reverse Monopoly, or the powerful multiplier effect that the growing use of mortgage funds to pay for current consumption must have on any realistic growth projection. The only indirect reference is a passage reading: "The level of mortgage finance required by borrowers is not necessarily related to the level of housing market activity and it may become increasingly difficult to differentiate between lending for house purchase and lending on the security of housing." Such caution is disingenuous coming from an organisation that is as well aware of the destination of its loans as the clearing banks, about whose indiscriminate home-refinancing practices it complained to the Bank of England in 1981.



COWDELL: Fighting for WBC title at Birmingham

Cowdell's sights on McGuigan

BOXING

Put Cowdell hopes to fight Barry McGuigan if he is successful in his bid for the WBC World featherweight title in October. The 31-year-old Midlands fighter said yesterday, Cowdell meets the champion Zumah Nelson (Ghana) at the 11,500-seater Birmingham National Exhibition Centre. Victory would increase the chances of a bout with McGuigan, the newly-crowned WBA champion.

The London promoter Frank Warren is handling the Cowdell-Nelson contest in association with the American promoter Don King. It will take place on October 5 or 12, depending on US television needs. Warren said yesterday: "If Pat wins, a fight with McGuigan would be a natural." Warren claimed that McGuigan's camp did not want the Irishman to fight Cowdell, but he added: "It would be the biggest fight this country had ever seen—two British boxers who are both world champions." Cowdell said: "We would both want to know who is the best." The October fight will be Cowdell's second shot at the world championship. In 1981 he went the full 15 rounds with Salvador Sanchez in Houston, but was beaten on a split

decision. He retired as undefeated European champion at the beginning of 1983 but came back 16 months later and went on to win the super featherweight championship of Europe.

Nelson, the unbeaten Commonwealth champion, won the world title in 1984. Cowdell's chance comes only four months after McGuigan's defeat of Eusebio Pedroza for the WBA version of the featherweight championship.

The Midlands promoter Johnny Griffin is set to take on the British Boxing Board of Control over the regulations demanding that a percentage of all sponsorship deals struck by promoters, at present paid direct to the board, be abolished. "It is not the promoter who displays initiative in arranging sponsorship for his show, and even more so if TV coverage is arranged. The present 12 per cent deduction from both sources of revenue is an unfair amount to give to the board and lessens our bargaining power."

Griffin maintains he has enough support for the 300 signatures he requires to call an extraordinary meeting of the board to discuss a rule change. "The London promoter Mike Barrett is one who has expressed interest and I hope to hold a meeting of all the interested parties within the next two weeks," said Griffin.

SOCCER IN BRIEF



OSMAN: £200,000 move

Leicester snap up Osman

LEICESTER CITY last night signed Ipswich's England international centre-back Russell Osman for £200,000. Osman, who is 26, has been capped 11 times for England and is the first signing of Leicester manager Gordon Milne since he made the £800,000 sale of striker Gary Lineker to Everton.

ARSENAL yesterday stripped Graham Rix of the club captaincy. The 27-year-old England

midfield player was also fined "very heavily" following his 12-month ban for drinking-and-driving. Kenny Sanson or Stewart Robson are the likely replacements.

BIRMINGHAM CITY, who are waiting for the result of the FA inquiry into the riot at the game with Leeds, have lost their sponsorship deal with the Midlands brewery, Ansells. Birmingham are the only Division One club without shirt sponsors. The brewery says the decision is financial and nothing to do with crowd trouble.

EVERTON, League champions and winners of the Cup-winners' Cup, showed a profit on the year of £340,000 compared with a loss of £175,000 in 1984. Salaries swallowed up £1.5 million as against £1.2 million last season. Attendance showed a 66 per cent increase with average League gates climbing from 19,000 to 32,000.

ABERDEEN'S international winger Peter Weir was sent off as the Scottish champions lost 1-0 to Switzerland in a friendly at Neuchatel. In an ill-tempered match, Weir was dismissed nine minutes from time for a foul.

Richard Eaton

Cairo to launch new era

SQUASH RACKETS

Historic firsts are right now arriving thick and fast in the sport of squash. Three of them come in the new season's World Championships in Cairo from November 21 to December 4. It will be the first time that a prize fund of \$80,000 (£42,857) has been seen at any squash event, although with revolutionary attempts in the pipeline to push into North America with syntheses of the softball and hardball games, this figure may not remain a record for long. It will also be the first time the world championships have been held in Egypt, even though this is the home of three of the legendary names: Abou Taleb who three times in the sixties won the British Open, then the World Cham-

ionships. Mahmoud el Karim, who won it four times from 1947 to 1950, and Amr Bey, who won it five times in the thirties.

A happy coincidence, therefore, that a famous squash-playing country now in need of a boost of fortunes will hold the first joint world individual and team event in the history of the men's game and in the process bringing to an end the extraordinary controversy and confusion of the season before last. Then in quick succession were held the ISRF World Championships, the ISFA World Championships and the SRA World Masters, leaving the public puzzled and the aficionados angry at the promotional lunacy entailed. Now the ISRF (the International Federation) has graciously agreed to scrap its individual events and place its team event alongside the ISFA (Players' Association), world Open, then the World Cham-

A MESSAGE FOR BELLS' SHAREHOLDERS.

WHY GUINNESS IS GOOD FOR YOU.

We'd like to show you how a merger of Guinness and Bells will enable you to participate in a group with exciting growth prospects.

GUINNESS AND BELLS APART

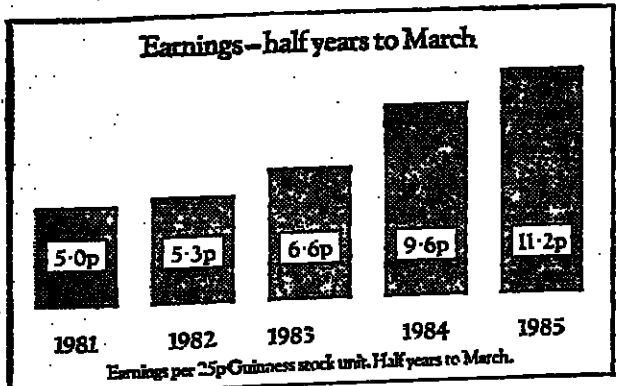
The truth is, Guinness has a definite sense of direction. Bells doesn't appear to have.

The revitalisation of Guinness has been no hit and miss affair. Earnings per share have grown by no less than 122 per cent over the three years to 30th September 1984.

Guinness's share price has steadily climbed as the Stock Market has recognised the achievements and the positive direction brought to Guinness by its new management team since 1981. Bells' share price has underperformed the relevant market sector by 43 per cent between its peak on 17th February 1983 and 14th May 1985, before bid rumours.

Guinness has successful twin growth strategies.

Profit growth for today, by continuous improvement in established businesses, International Beverages and Retailing.

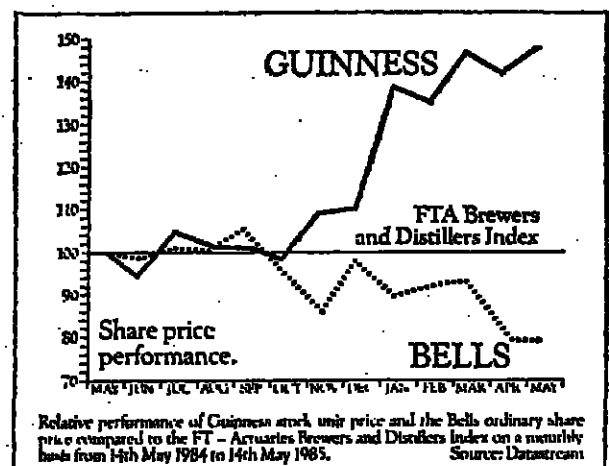


Profit growth for tomorrow by investment in growth sectors within our established businesses and in exciting new areas such as Healthcare and Publishing.

Trading profits from Retailing and other non brewing activities rose to £6.7 million in

the half year to 31st March 1985 from £1.8 million in the half year to 31st March 1984.

The story at Bells is somewhat more sobering.



Its diversification activities have been rather less successful. Canning Town Glass, for instance, has lost £2.4 million over the last four financial years. The refurbishment of Bells' Piccadilly Hotel in London is now expected to cost at least 60 per cent more than the original £10 million estimate, and it is still unfinished in what should be its most lucrative season.

Perhaps the most important disciplines the new management team has brought to Guinness are real marketing and advertising skills. The result has been to reverse the decline in our core brewing business.

Meanwhile Bells' share of the U.K. Scotch Whisky market has declined by 20 per cent since 1980.

Guinness sales to the U.S. have risen by 81 per cent by volume in the three years to 31st March 1985.

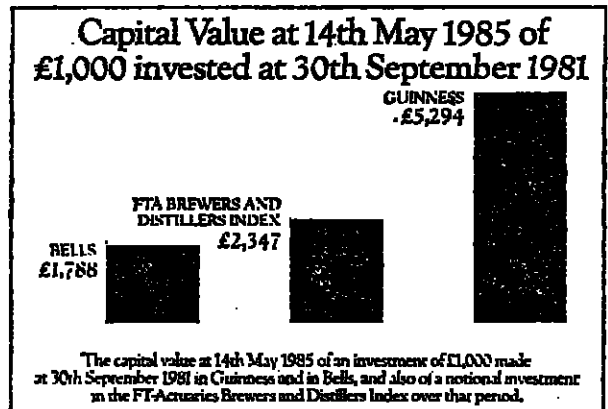
Bells has failed to make its promised inroads into the crucial U.S. market.

GUINNESS AND BELLS MIXED

Guinness has considerable regard for the Bells' brand and its distilling skills.

Bringing together the skills of the two companies would create a force in the world's drinks market of considerably greater potential than Bells alone ever could. And obviously, bigger sales of Bells would lead to greater job security.

Indeed, Guinness' faith in the venture is clear by the guarantee given that there will be no redundancies as a result of Bells becoming a member of the Guinness Group, and the fact that Bells would continue to be managed in Perth.



On 14th May 1985, before bid rumours, Bells' shares languished at 143p. You are not only being offered a substantial premium over this price, but also shares in an exciting, enlarged group.

We strongly recommend you accept our offer. Because as you can see, Guinness is not only good for you, but good for Bells, good for Bells employees and good for Scotland as well.



GUINNESS PLC

DRAUGHT AND BOTTLED GUINNESS, HARB KILBERR, DRUMMONDS, MARTIN THE NEWSAGENT, LAYBELL, FLEVEN STORES, CHAMPAINS AND STONE CASTLE HEALTH RESORTS, NATURE'S BEST VITAMINS, GUINNESS PUBLISHING.

Bells has lost its way. Guinness is good for Bells.

No bang heard on black box, says judge

From Joe Joyce, in Dublin

Reports that a "sharp bang" possibly an explosion — was heard on the cockpit voice-recorder of the crashed Air India jet were denied last night by the Indian judge leading the official inquiry into the disaster.

Mr Justice B. N. Kirpal said: "I have heard the cockpit voice recorder and I have not heard any such crack at all."

He was speaking in Cork, where he is meeting members of the international investigation team trying to determine the cause of the crash in which 329 people lost their lives last month.

"It is not possible at this stage to find out what has gone wrong," the judge said in an interview on Irish radio.

The judge is to decide with Canadian experts which pieces of wreckage still on the seabed should be recovered. A Canadian consortium vessel, the John Cabot is surveying and lifting the wreckage with an unmanned submersible.

Mr Justice Kirpal indicated that hearings would begin in India when all the evidence had been collected, probably in three weeks.

"What is important is not only to find out what happened but to make recommendations to ensure that such a thing does not happen in future," he said.

The judge yesterday met the chairman of the Canadian Air Safety Board, Mr Bernard Deschenes, whose experts have been conducting inquiries from Cork since the accident. Most of the victims of the flight from Montreal to London were Canadian residents.

Mr Justice Kirpal also visited Cork regional hospital, where the bodies of 131 victims were examined. He will be shown wreckage recovered from the sea. He will visit Shannon air traffic control today, from where the alert was raised when the jumbo disappeared from the radar screen.

Wide changes in Cabinet expected after Tory revolt on top people's pay Ministers see big shuffle ahead

By Colin Brown, Political Reporter

Ministers believe that Mrs Thatcher will carry out a much larger reshuffle of the Cabinet than she had intended after this week's Tory rebellion over pay rises for top people.

As members of the Government prepared for Parliament's 12-week summer recess, they predicted that Mrs Thatcher would want to reorganise her ministerial team fundamentally to steady the nerves of the party for the run-up to the general election.

However, it is believed that she will seek to avoid damaging morale with a Cabinet blood-letting by adopting Harold Wilson's trick of moving ministers about rather than having a general clear-out.

The reshuffle is expected around the weekend of September 7 and 8, when the Prime Minister will be at Balmoral with the Queen.

The advice from the whips to go for a much wider reshuffle of the ministerial pecking order with earlier signs that Mrs Thatcher would seek only limited changes because of the blockage caused by those in the key posts, the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, and the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Mrs Thatcher flew to the United States last night for a short visit in which she is to attend the conference of the International Democratic Union, and she may meet President Reagan during his convalescence.

Senior ministers admitted that it was unfortunate that she had left after the rebellion in which 48 Tory MPs voted against the Government, reducing its majority to 17.

There is little doubt that Mrs Thatcher's stature appears to have been damaged by the rebellion. She faced an unusually hostile challenge to her authority yesterday during Prime Minister's questions before she left for the airport.

The former defence minister, Mr Jerry Wiggin, MP for West-sussex, who voted with the Government on the pay issue, expressed anger at



Mr Jerry Wiggin — urged Thatcher to listen

the expected announcement today of a local structure plan.

"Will you instruct your ministers and give an example yourself to listen with much greater care in future to the view of your own supporters or you won't have so many of them," he said.

Cabinet ministers accept that after this week's jolt they will have to listen more to the party's views. One senior source described the vote on pay as resembling a "lightning conductor," drawing attacks or disaffection over the ERM, the election result, the bill to abolish the Greater London Council, the aftermath of the miners' strike and the Tories' low poll rating.

Some Tories who voted against the Government were still expressing anger at the heavy arm-twisting used by the whips to ensure that Mrs Thatcher had prepared a written statement to announce that the Government would table a

confidence vote had it been defeated.

Some Tory backbenchers, when confronted by Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, one of the whips, assumed that Mrs Thatcher was threatening to resign. The whips did nothing to dissuade them of that threat and succeeded in winning the vote by forcing many to move behind the Government.

The Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, asked Mrs Thatcher in the Commons yesterday whether the whips had their authority in saying that she had threatened to resign. Mrs Thatcher said: "I am sorry to disappoint: I am here and will remain here."

The Cabinet had its last meeting yesterday, before its summer break. Its next meeting will be in September, possibly after the reshuffle.

Mrs Thatcher, after returning from America at the weekend, will be at Chequers but is planning a fortnight's holiday in Switzerland during August.

Call for sanctions brushed aside by US

Continued from page one

such a meeting as "speculative" but Mr Speaker left little doubt that the US was anxious to get relations between Washington and Pretoria back on a normal footing and it determined to keep the policy of constructive engagement alive.

The US recalled its ambassador from Pretoria on June 14 after South African troops had crossed into Botswana to attack the headquarters of the African National Congress. Some American officials clearly believe that the ambassador, Mr Herman Nickle, has been away from his post for too long and that the time has come — despite the emergency — to put relations between Washington and Pretoria back to normal. However, the US is holding out for evidence that the South Africans will "at some point be prepared to negotiate seriously in the region."

The White House made it clear that with South Africa in uproar there were strong strategic considerations in the US's apparent decision to remain involved in constructive engagement while it slowly reviewed its policy. "There's no doubt that the US would be prepared to move into a vacuum there," Mr Speaker said. If the US changed its regional approach to South Africa.

Although both houses of Congress have passed bills which would impose economic sanctions on South Africa the White House was resolved to not follow the French lead during the Security Council debate. As the largest market for South African gold coins and a \$2.3 billion investor in the country, US support for its own or UN sanctions could make a real difference, especially if it were joined by Britain, which has a \$8.9 billion investment.

But the diplomatic sources emphasised, as the UN debate began, that the Government, while strongly condemning apartheid, remained firmly opposed to sanctions and would vote against them or abstain during the debate.

The Americans, rejecting sanctions, said they were relying on the force of public opinion to bring change. "They have moved," the White House said, "without any sanctions from the United States. The US apparently stands that the South Africans will move further once the present unrest is ended."

Jenkin eases squeeze on Tory shires

Continued from page one

Tory defeat in the shire county elections in May.

Dr John Cunningham, the shadow environment secretary, warned Mr Jenkin: "Having engineered a double cle for the Conservative Party in the shire elections, you are doing the same for your friends in the district in the coming few months."

The settlement seems particularly severe for Conservative-controlled outer London boroughs and metropolitan districts which spend above the GRCA and which, as the polls next May, these include the borough of Barnet, in which Mrs Thatcher has her constituency.

Safety nets have been introduced to protect these councils from too much grant loss, but it will not be surprising if these areas have big rate increases or service cuts next spring, just before the local polls.

The Government has set the Exchequer grant to English local authorities in 1986/7 at \$11.744 million, the same cash figure as this year.

Mr Speaker said, by an extra \$500 million to \$22.250 million. This reduces the grant percentage from 48.7 to just under 47. But next year the Treasury will not strain the Exchequer by penalising councils exceeding their targets. The change should have little effect on the overall level of rates.

The Government's decisions on rate-capping have produced some political surprises. Newcastle, under the moderate Labour leadership of Mr Robert Maclellan, has been added to the hit list despite holding its spending growth since 1979 below the level of inflation. Sheffield, even though its leader, Mr David Hinkley, has led resistance against the Government's new laws.

Mr Blunkett said yesterday: "The Government have created havoc in Sheffield. Now they've washed their hands of the mess, and are leaving us to be cut to pieces."

Andrew Moncreaf adds: Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, is aiming for a \$42 million drop in spending by the new inner city authority next year.

He announced yesterday that he was setting the proposed level of spending at \$902 million in 1986-7, compared with the expected total of \$945 million this year.

The greater part of that reduction — around \$30 million — is accounted for by a reduction in the contribution to the national advanced further education pool.

The authority expects to regulate up to \$32 million as a result of a new formula for calculating contributions to the pool, outlined this week by Sir Keith, bowing to last month's High Court ruling that he had acted unlawfully over the complaint that it was paying too large a share.

At the same time he is reckoning on a 1.5 per cent (\$14.175 million) cut in spending by the new authority.

Details of the new spending level were given to leaders of the existing authority yesterday. A spokesman for the Department of Education and Science said: "If they object to the proposed expenditure level they can ask for more."

Exports fall puts trade into red

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

The visible trade balance fell back into the red last month, to the tune of \$243 million, after an unexpectedly high surplus in May.

The deficit was greater than expected with the most disturbing element a sharp fall in the value of exports, supporting industry's current belief that the export boom of the earlier part of the year has faded as a result of the strong pound.

The deficit on manufactured goods jumped by \$474 million to \$1,085 million with the surplus on oil little changed at \$842 million.

The overall trading balance showed a \$287 million surplus after crediting the monthly \$500 million gain from invisible goods, insurance and other financial services.

While the Government maintained that the June figures keep the current account balance of payments on target for this year's forecast outcome of a \$3 billion surplus, there are indications that the Treasury's attitude is over-optimistic.

In the second quarter of the year the value of exports to the US rose by 20 per cent but exports to the European Community partners fell by 5.5 per cent, confirming the Confederation of British Industry's insistence that the pound is now valued far too highly against other European currencies, particularly the German mark.

There could also be a gloomy future for the UK in oil terms after yesterday's Opec decision to reduce oil prices, which could in turn, push down North Sea oil prices and Britain's oil revenues.

The exceptional May trading surplus on visible goods owed much to a low level of oil imports, ahead of expected cuts in Opec prices, and oil imports could rise again in the coming months.

The Opec agreement was further bad news for the Treasury, whose revenue targets this year from North Sea oil have already been seriously jeopardised by sterling's substantial gains over the US dollar, which prunes the proceeds from oil taxation.

Cattle drug ring broken in raids

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

A black market ring in drugs used to treat and fatten cattle has been smashed in early-morning raids by police and food and drug inspectors in the West Country, it was disclosed yesterday.

The public could be at risk from meat and dairy products contaminated by the drugs, said the Pharmaceutical Society's chief inspector, Mr Gordon Applebe, whose investigators had been tracking the network for six months.

Farms and agricultural merchants in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, and a vet's surgery in Devon, were raided on Wednesday morning. No charges have been made yet, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, whose inspectors were involved in the raids.

Large quantities of antibiotics and other drugs understood to include hormones for fattening cattle were seized, along with computer records and invoices.

"The ring was using a code whereby supplies of illicit drugs were specified on an invoice as cattle feed," said a Pharmaceutical Society spokesman.

Illegal supplies of antibiotics amounting to more than \$1,000 a week were destined for the West," he added. "The network might stretch as far north as Cheshire."

Mr Applebe said: "It is not possible to estimate the extent of contamination of meat and dairy products, but the public health risk could be considerable."

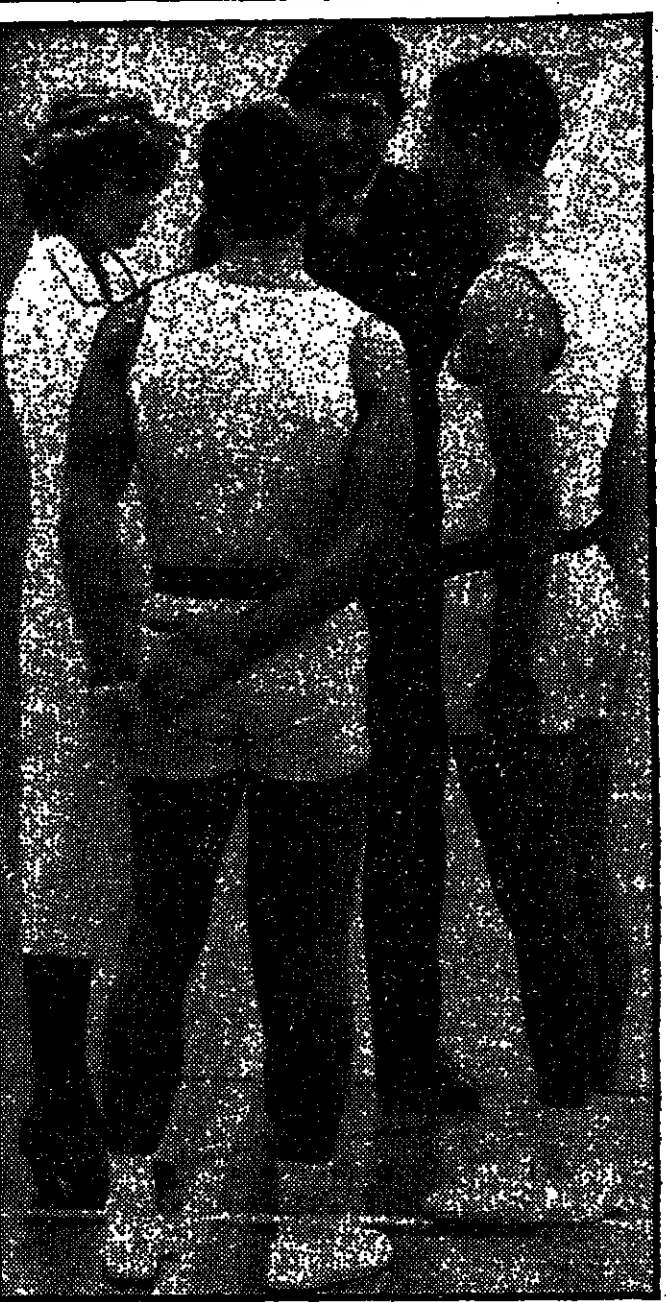
Hormones can only be given to cattle under the supervision of a vet. When a cow is slaughtered it has to have a vet's certificate saying that it has not been given drugs which would affect consumers.

When cows are given antibiotics farmers have to throw away the milk for a week after the course of drugs has finished.

"The fact that agriculture merchants were trading illicitly in these drugs means that people must have been putting them to illicit uses," said the Pharmaceutical Society spokesman.

A number of agricultural merchants were being questioned, he added.

The supply of prescription-only medicines is controlled by the 1968 Medicines Act.



COMMANDO PERFORMANCE: The Princess of Wales in the gymnasium during her visit yesterday to the Royal Marines' Commando Training Centre in Lympstone, Devon

Duke's tax relief plan rejected

Continued from page one

damning indictment of the Government's policies, but criticised the package for lack of emphasis on the plight of the homeless. It welcomed the proposals on mortgage relief, but rejected those for fixing private and public sector rents on a capital value basis.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that "the Duke has done his bit — now it's up to the Government to

act." But it rejected the inquiry's faith that the private sector could put things right, and said the rent proposals would be no comfort to 200,000 homeless people and millions living in sub-standard property.

The House Builders' Federation welcomed the report as a far-reaching and comprehensive package, but urged immediate action to deal with the areas of housing crisis, including legislation to enable build-

ing societies to offer shared purchase funds for people who could not afford to buy, and could not afford to rent. It also urged more flexible planning policies to bring forward land for development, and action to bring forward more under-used or derelict land.

The Town and Country Planning Association regretted that the inquiry had not considered the wider planning context

GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,298

CUSTOS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

ACROSS

1 Foreign money needs to be more than enough for a month, on reflection (7).

5 Rose is not met as arranged (5, 2).

9 Big shot, to bring in a worker for each child (9, 6).

10 Believes they're meant for cargo (5).

11 Go smartly back after sacking? That may cause an explosion (6, 3).

12 At home in a shanty? It adds relish (9).

14 Old-fashioned note, a lot of lines by a girl (5).

15 Detective holding public prosecutor back, one hoping for commission (5).

16 See herald act oddly in religious place (9).

18 Disordered state making man, we hear, storm violently (9).

21 Small boat, with water supply lacking, is grimy (5).

22 Numbered, a sad love, or one in love, is quite late (4, 2, 1, 8).

23 Intonation of French noticeable in tin church (7).

24 Like a tight-fitting dress? You'll have flims, full of passion (7).

DOWN

1 Promises a subscription around daybreak (7).

2 Commercial law, in a way that's flexible as well as exact (8, 3, 6).

3 Irregular hours that are needed to discuss exhaustively (6, 3).

4 A band employed in various car ferries (5).

5 Corrects mistaken ideas of group's entitlement (4, 5).

6 Elaborate lyric being performed in concert-hall (5).

7 Obsolescent turn, the Indian rope-trick (12, 3).

8 Identification of one's observed among coppers (7).

13 A cretin, an imbecile personified (9).

14 Money-producing plant? (5, 4).

15 Company doctor of humorous play (7).

17 Constantly in the money, always fixed up (7).

19 Communist leader's no Liberal — shame (5).

20 Suggests healers should carry scriptural books (5).

Solution tomorrow

Short hopes for play-off

By Leonard Borden

Nigel Short is still in with a chance to become Britain's first ever world chess candidate after a remarkable final round at 21 where his rivals faltered under pressure.

Short, the 20-year-old British champion, outplayed Van der Wiel in a 30-move Sicilian Defence which the Dutchman resigned when down on material. Short's other rival, Vaganian (USSR) 12½ out of 17, Selizman (US) 11½, Sokolov (USSR) 11, Torre 10½ and one unfinished, Short and Van der Wiel 10½. If Torre loses there is a three-man play-off starting on Saturday for the final place in the world candidates.

Baby Tyra's father sentenced to life

Continued from page one

and disappeared. A note in the child's pocket identified her as Julie Miller. She had 57 human bite marks on her body, extensive bruising and severe brain injuries. She died on September 1.

Lambeth council reacted immediately by commissioning an inquiry external to the social services department, which reported to the inquiry committee in two weeks, followed by an extensive internal inquiry, chaired by the social services director, Mr Robin Osmond.

Mr Osmond announced yesterday that the inquiry established by himself and the council chairman, Mrs Janet Boateng, who was yesterday on holiday in Brazil, "did reveal that errors had been committed by the council."

On August 29 a woman later identified as Nell's sister, Paula, handed the baby to a nurse in Guy's Hospital

BBC staff plan protest

BBC staff are to demonstrate outside Broadcasting House next month against management plans to shed more than 4,000 and privatise some areas of the corporation.

"Errors of judgment had been made, appropriate managerial supervision had been lacking and problems had occurred in coordination between housing and social services departments. The inquiry also revealed failures by the local health authority and the probation service."

He announced that Lambeth would now be holding an independent external inquiry, its main objective being to look at the inter-disciplinary aspects of the case. He also stressed that more resources were needed from the Department of Health and Social Security to help boroughs such as Lambeth, which has about 970 children in care — the highest number in the country — and 353 on the at-risk register.

THE WEATHER

Warm with some sun

A COMPLEX area of low pressure centred over N Ireland at first will move slowly northwards during the day with an associated trough of low pressure crossing most central and eastern parts.

N. Wales: Thursday mild, sunny with some light showers, becoming drier later. Wind variable, light to moderate. Max temp 24 to 26 (22-26).

E. Anglia, E. NW, Cot. H. and N. England: Late rain, heavy rain, becoming drier later. Wind variable, light to moderate. Max temp 24 to 26 (22-26).

Ches. and Lancs: SW. Wind SE. Moderate. Max temp 24 to 26 (22-26).

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Edinburgh and Dundee: Aberdeen, Carlisle, Newcastle, N. Wales, N. Ireland: Dry and bright at first, becoming drier later. Wind variable, light to moderate. Max temp 24 to 26 (22-26).

SE. Scotland, Glasgow, N. Ireland: Dry and bright at first, becoming drier